



Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Faith, politics mix on holiday

By JEFF AMY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Against the backdrop of a presidential election year, Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. holiday found leaders still wrestling over how to best embody the slain civil rights leader.

In Atlanta, Republicans told a sometimes cool crowd at Ebenezer Baptist Church, King's onetime church, that they were honoring King's legacy of service and political empowerment. But Democrats found more favor by highlighting the ways they said the current political and social order calls for more radical action in line with King's principles.



Dr. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks during the Martin Luther King, Jr. annual commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Continued on Next Page

Associated Press

TACO TUESDAYS

CRAFT x LOLA

LOLA AND CRAFT ARE SITUATED IN FRONT OF THE HILTON HOTEL

TACOS

FROM 5PM TILL 8PM

LOLATAQUERIA.COM

A PHARMACY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

- Full-Service Pharmacy
- Competitive prices
- Health, wellness and beauty products

Tel.: +297 586 1717 | www.boticadiservicio.com
info@boticadiservicio.com | Unit 5 at "The Cove"

Located at "The Cove"
Right across from the Holiday Inn

ARUBA WALK-IN CLINIC

- Experienced doctor
- No appointment necessary
- Urgent and non-urgent medical care

Tel.: +297 588 0539 | Or: +297 594 0539
lgbeke.md@gmail.com | Unit 9 at "The Cove"

Authentic Peruvian Food & More

Sharing Menu \$50 per couple

2 appetizers 1 Main dish 1 Dessert

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaaruba.com - Closed Mon
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiesmiperuenaaruba.com

ARUBA'S MOST REWARDING CASINO EXPERIENCE

\$1 MILLION CASH GIVEAWAY 2020

THE CASINO
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA

Continued from Front

Monday's speeches at Ebenezer Baptist were just one slice of the political struggle in Georgia, where Democrats believe they can make further inroads in the Republican controlled state, aided by diverse immigration and a suburban backlash against President Donald Trump.

Up for re-election this year, Trump sought to stamp his own mark on the commemoration. He and Vice President Mike Pence made a brief visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington. Earlier in the day, Trump sent a tweet noting that it was the third anniversary of his inauguration: "So appropriate that today is also MLK jr DAY. African-American Unemployment is the LOWEST

in the history of our Country, by far. Also, best Poverty, Youth, and Employment numbers, ever. Great!"

Black unemployment has reached a record low during the Trump administration, but many economists note economic growth since 2009 has driven hiring. The most dramatic drop in black unemployment came under President Barack Obama. Despite economic success, polls find most African American voters regard Trump with distaste.

In Atlanta, Republican U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, appointed last month by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, said her upbringing on an Illinois farm was touched by King. "Dr. King's call to service, to sacrifice, to put others first, it shaped our home and



inspired us to ask what Dr. King asked the world. 'What are you doing for others?'" Loeffler said.

One of Loeffler's Democratic opponents in a November special election could be the Rev. Raphael Warnock, the current pastor at Ebenezer, which King and his father once led. Warnock, without mentioning Loeffler by name, said that honoring King means more than just voicing "lip service" on one weekend a year.

"Everyone wants to be seen standing where Dr. King stood. That's fine, you're welcome," said Warnock, who could soon announce a Senate run. "But if today you would stand in this holy place, where Dr. King stood, make sure, that come tomorrow, we'll find you standing where Dr. King stood."

Of King, Warnock said that "too many people like to remember him and dismember him at the same time," calling Georgia "ground zero for voter suppression" and citing the failure of the state's Republican leadership to fully expand the Medicaid health insurance program.

Others agreed with him, with keynote speaker Rev. Howard-John Wesley of Alexandria, Virginia, telling attendees that "we have lost the radicality" of King's vision, talking about how King attacked the Vietnam War and the unequal American economy at the end of his career.

Loeffler made no mention of Trump or the Senate impeachment trial, but Democratic U.S. Rep Hank Johnson did, drawing applause when he mentioned impeachment and saying American democracy is "in grave danger."

"Our communities are once again finding themselves on the front lines of fighting to protect our very republic," Johnson said. "And it can be easy, brothers and sisters, in moments like these to despair. But even in our darkest hours, the legacy of Dr. King is a hope that dawn will come."

Georgia's Republican Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger took the stage, seeking to build confidence that his office supports broad voter participation and that the state's new voting machines will guarantee a fair vote.

Democrats led by former gubernatorial nominee Stacey Abrams have attacked his actions, including a mass purge of inactive voters from the state's voting rolls.

"Every voter gets one vote. We all have a voice. We all count," Raffensperger said. King's daughter Bernice spoke about the King holiday becoming a day of service, "a day on, not a day off." She said the holiday needs a broader vision. "A day on is not enough. What we need is a light on, committed to working vigilantly to build the beloved community," she said. "A light on encompasses a commitment not just to service but to systemic change as well."

The same kind of wrestling over what King means in the present moment was taking place elsewhere, with Pence speaking Sunday at a church service in Memphis, Tennessee.

Pence spoke at the Holy City Church of God in Christ about King's religion and how he "challenged the conscience of a nation to live up to our highest ideals by speaking to our common foundation of faith." □

pureocean
BEACHSIDE DINING

IT'S 6 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE...

JOIN US!
HAPPY HOUR DAILY
FROM 6-7 PM

SUNSETS | DRINK SPECIALS | FREE PARKING

Tantalize your taste buds with delicious NEW bar bites starting at just \$8 and the perfect wine, cocktail or beer!

Located at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort
J.E. Irawsquín Blvd. 75, Palm Beach

For more information, call 586-6066 ext. 7002

Paradise is calling

Get your room in Paradise starting at \$2,000 before time runs out.

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. #51 (T): 297-582-7000 (W): www.casadelmar-aruba.com

Homeless moms evicted from Oakland home may return

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Homeless mothers who were evicted last week from an Oakland, California, house where they were squatting plan to move back after speculators agreed to sell the property to a nonprofit organization, it was announced Monday. Wedgewood Inc. will sell the home to the Oakland Community Land Trust, which buys and fixes up property for affordable housing. The group plans to allow women from the group Moms 4 Housing to return, Mayor Libby Schaaf announced.

The city helped negotiate the agreement with the land trust and Wedgewood after a public outcry following the evictions. "This is what happens when we organize, when people come together to build the beloved community," Dominique Walker of Moms 4 Housing said in a statement on the holiday honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. "Today we honor Dr. King's radical legacy by taking Oakland back from banks and corporations."

Wedgewood also agreed to work with the city to negotiate a right-of-first-refusal program for all its other Oakland properties, a city statement said.

Wedgewood will give the city, the land trust or other community groups the first chance to buy the homes "so they remain permanently affordable," said

Carroll Fife of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment.

Last week, following a court order, two women from Moms 4 Housing were evicted from the vacant house on Magnolia Street that they and their children had illegally occupied since November. Sheriff's deputies used a battering ram to enter and arrested the women.

The incident highlighted California's severe housing shortage, soaring housing costs and a rising rate of homelessness. A one-night count of homeless in the San Francisco Bay Area city jumped 47% in two years to more than 4,000 last year.

The evicted women had said nobody should be homeless when investment companies are buying and fixing up properties to sell at a profit. Wedgewood, based in Southern California, has flipped 160 homes in Oakland over the past nine years, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The company bought the property in the distressed west Oakland at a foreclosure auction last year for just over \$500,000.

The Oakland Community Land Trust will buy the home for a price not to exceed the appraised value," said a statement from the office of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

The median house sales price in Oakland is about \$750,000.

Wedgewood previously had refused to negotiate with the mothers' group or the land trust but the eviction made national headlines and garnered strong political support.

"They're representing tens of thousands of other mothers, families that are suffering," Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said last week.

"Wedgewood is thankful for the outpouring of support for our company throughout the illegal occupation of our Oakland property. We appreciate the local, state and national support for property owners as well as the public's support for non-violent discussion and



In this Dec. 6, 2019 photo, Moms 4 Housing member Dominique Walker, 34, left, activist and 2018 Oakland mayoral candidate Cat Brooks, right, and other activists react as supporters chant "power to the moms" outside a home in West Oakland, Calif. Associated Press

action," the company said in a statement Monday.

"We are honored and inspired to collaborate with the City of Oakland on reasonable, thoughtful, and organized actions to address the issue of homelessness and housing," the

company said.

Misty Cross, one of those evicted, said the group will continue pressing for affordable housing.

"We won't stop until everyone is housed," she said. "We want housing to be a human right." □

LIKE US ON

facebook

Facebook.com/arubatoday/

Last phase construction
Pre construction prices

Free pick up from your hotel
Financing options available

- Spectacular views of land & sea, simply extraordinary -

Enjoy a glass of your favorite wine with this superb view

CORAL SHELL
ARUBA

Investment
Leisure
Family Time
Enjoyment
Retirement

All that in one place: Coral Shell Condominium Aruba
Sales office & showroom open from 9AM to 5PM: call +297 699 0095
AND ON WEEKENDS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Contact us:
Email: Marisabeldaboin@hotmail.com Phone: 297 594 6745 or 297 587 9170 (Aruba) Website:
Deluxerealestatenv@gmail.com 58 4123277132 (Venezuela) www.coralshellaruba.com

This TUESDAY **20% OFF** *All fruit & vegetables*

LING & SONS
IGA Super Center
Groceries Like Home!

For more information please call (297) 521-2370.
Open Monday to Saturday from 7:30am to 9pm.
Sunday from 9am to 6pm. www.lingandsons.com

THE #1 SUPERMARKET IN ARUBA | f | i | w | IN STORE!

Justice Dept. memos back defiance of impeachment subpoenas

By **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Monday released Justice Department legal opinions meant to bolster its case for defying subpoenas from Congress in the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

One opinion, dated Sunday, says Trump administration officials were free to disregard subpoenas sent last fall before the House of Representatives had formally authorized an impeachment inquiry. That approval, the memo says, is necessary before congressional committees can begin their own investigations and issue subpoenas for documents and testimony.

The opinion says lawmakers acted in "unprecedented" fashion by investigating the president without a formal vote from the House and by making "express threats



The Senate side of the U.S. Capitol at sunrise on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, in Washington. The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump will resume in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday.

Associated Press

of obstruction charges and unconstitutional demands" that officials appear for closed-door testimony about sensitive matters. "Absent any effort by the

House committees to accommodate the Executive Branch's legitimate concerns with the unprecedented nature of the committees' actions, it was

reasonable for executive branch officials to decline to comply with the subpoenas addressed to them," says the opinion from Assistant Attorney General Steven Engel, who heads the legal counsel office.

The opinion is significant because one of the two articles of impeachment being taken up this week by the Senate accuses Trump of obstructing the congressional investigation into his efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden. Republican allies of the president are likely to seize on the Justice Department conclusion to argue that the White House was on solid legal ground when it directed aides and officials to flout congressional demands for testimony and documents.

Democrats, meanwhile, are unlikely to be persuaded that the administration's defiance of subpoenas and refusal to participate in the impeachment inquiry has any legal basis.

"In completely obstruct-

ing an investigation into his own misconduct, President Trump asserted the prerogative to nullify Congress's impeachment power itself," House managers wrote Monday.

"He placed himself above the law and eviscerated the separation of powers. This claim evokes monarchy and despotism. It has no place in our democracy, where even the highest official must answer to Congress and the Constitution," they added.

At issue are subpoenas issued last fall after news broke of Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's leader, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in which Trump asked for an investigation into Biden and his son, Hunter.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced an impeachment inquiry on Sept. 24. Three days later, Democratic-led committees subpoenaed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Additional subpoenas were issued over the next several weeks to multiple other government officials and diplomats.

Since it wasn't until Oct. 31 that the House adopted procedures governing the impeachment inquiry, subpoenas issued before then — such as to Pompeo — are not valid, according to the Justice Department opinion. Even when it passed the resolution, the opinion says, the House did not change the legal status of subpoenas issued before Oct. 31 "because the resolution did not ratify them or otherwise address their terms."

It is one of several the office — which provides legal advice for the executive branch — has recently issued that the Trump administration has pointed to in support of its positions. □

Giuliani associate in campaign cash probe seeks Barr recusal

NEW YORK (AP) — An associate of Rudy Giuliani charged with illegally funneling foreign money into U.S. political campaigns has asked Attorney General William Barr to recuse himself in the case and appoint a special prosecutor. The request is made in a letter filed Monday in the docket of the federal campaign finance violation case brought by New York prosecutors against Lev Parnas. The letter signed by defense lawyer Joseph Bondy came a day before the Senate impeachment trial against President Donald Trump was scheduled

to start. Parnas is charged along with an associate, Igor Fruman, with making illegal campaign contributions in order to further their business interests and political goals that included a campaign to get the U.S. to replace its ambassador to Ukraine. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Two other men are also charged in a part of the case having to do with attempts to get approval in several states for a fledgling marijuana business.

Both Parnas and Fruman were deeply involved in helping Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer and former

New York City mayor, try to persuade Ukrainian officials to launch an investigation of the business dealings of Joe Biden's son.

In recent weeks, Parnas has been giving Congressional Democrats documents and electronic correspondence related to that pressure as part of the impeachment inquiry.

Barr's Justice Department brought the charges against Parnas, but the case is being overseen by the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey Berman. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment on Bondy's letter Monday. □

Utah police: Boy accused in killing 4 not cooperating

A boy accused of shooting and killing four members of a Utah family and wounding a fifth surrendered peacefully following the Friday night slayings, but has since refused to speak with detectives trying to piece together a possible motive, police said Monday. Police in the small town of Grantsville released the names of the victims, who ranged from 14 to 52 years old, and said the boy was related to them. But authorities declined to specify the suspect's age, his relation to the victims or release his name at the request of the district attorney until formal charges are filed. The father of the family was released from the hospital after being treated for a gunshot wound and was talking with investigators, said Police Sgt. Rhonda Fields. She added that the killings were the first homicides in two decades in the town of 11,000 about 35 miles (55 kilometers) west of Salt Lake City. "The biggest question everybody has is 'why' and, while we may not be di-

rectly able to answer that, we hope to be able to gather some information to be able to help people in future to be able to prevent something like this or offer support to those who may need it," Fields said. "We don't have a lot of crime," she added. "It's hard to accept that something like this has happened in our community. Investigators were trying to put together a timeline of the shooting to help figure out what happened, Fields said, adding that no other details were being released at this time. A candlelight vigil for the victims was planned for Monday night at Grantsville City Park. Relatives of the victims asked for privacy as they awaited results of the investigation. Patty Deakin-Daley, a realtor who started a fundraising campaign to help cover the victims' funeral expenses, said she had been in touch with a brother and a son of the injured father. "They don't have answers at this point and they may

never have the answers they hope to have," she said. Police responded to a call of shots fired inside the home at approximately 7 p.m. Friday. When officers arrived, they found the bodies of Consuelo Alejandra Haynie, 52, her daughters Alexis, 15, and Maylan, 14, and son Mathew, 14, Fields said. The shooter and father Colin Haynie, 50, were gone, she said. Authorities later discovered that a person who arrived at the house after the shooting drove the suspect and the surviving victim to a nearby hospital, Fields said. Authorities said they had not been called to the house in the past. Officers arrested the boy at the hospital. He faces four counts of aggravated murder, one count of attempted aggravated murder and multiple firearms charges and was being held at a youth detention facility pending an expected court appearance. Officials said he is the only suspect. The person who



Police investigate after four people were killed and fifth person was injured in a shooting at a Grantsville, Utah, home Friday, Jan. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

drove them to the hospital was not involved in shooting, she said. It appears to be the largest mass shooting in Utah since 2007, when a shotgun-wielding gunman killed five people and himself at Trolley Square mall in Salt Lake City. Tooele County School

District officials planned to offer counseling to students when they return to school on Tuesday. Counselors will also be at the city library for anyone else in the community who needs to talk about the killings, Grantsville Mayor Brent Marshall said. □

Vatican orders sex abuse investigation of Brooklyn bishop

NEW YORK (AP) — The Vatican has ordered an investigation of a sexual abuse allegation against Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, who was previously named by Pope Francis to investigate the church's response to clergy sexual abuse in Buffalo. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York received instructions on Jan. 7 to begin an investigation of allegations that DiMarzio molested a child while he was a parish priest in New Jersey in the mid-1970s, according to a statement released over the weekend by Dolan's spokesman Joseph Zwilling. "As is our practice, the Cardinal will rely on outside professional forensic inves-

tigators to assist him in this matter," Zwilling said. Boston attorney Mitchell Garabedian notified church officials in November that he was preparing a lawsuit on behalf of his client, who alleges to have been repeatedly abused by DiMarzio and a second priest as an altar boy at St. Nicholas Church in Jersey City. DiMarzio denied the allegation, telling The Associated Press "I am confident I will be fully vindicated." In October, Pope Francis tapped DiMarzio to investigate the Buffalo Diocese, where Bishop Richard Malone had come under fire for his handling of a burgeoning clergy abuse scandal. Malone resigned in December. □

Rated #1 Show and #1 Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor!

SEE THREE COMEDIANS NIGHTLY FROM THE TONIGHT SHOW, AMERICA'S GOT TALENT, THE LATE SHOW, COMEDY CENTRAL & HBO

					
RAY ELLIN <small>This Week at the Comedy Cellar on Comedy Central, Late July with Ray Ellis, Fox's Red Eye, NatGeo's Star Talk</small>	TOM COTTER <small>Runner-up on NBC's America's Got Talent, The Tonight Show, CBS's Late Late Show</small>	CHRISTINE HURLEY <small>Finalist on America's Funniest Mom, Boston Comedy Festival, Nantucket Comedy Festival</small>	CHUCK NICE <small>WHO's Best Week Ever: NBC's Today Show, HGTV, TRU TV's World's Dumbest</small>	LENNY CLARKE <small>Comedy Central, Fox Tix FX, ESPN, Rescue Me, The John Larroquette Show</small>	TONY V <small>HBO, Comedy Central, Seinfeld, movie The Heat, movie Daddy's Home 2, Conan</small>

JANUARY 9th THRU FEBRUARY 13th
NO SHOWS JAN 11, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26th & FEB 1, 2, 8

ARUBA RAY'S COMEDY CLUB
HOLIDAY INN RESORT BALLROOM

BUY \$39 ADVANCE TICKETS AT www.ArubaComedy.com
ENTER THE CODE "PAPER" FOR ONLINE DISCOUNT • TICKETS AT DOOR \$45 (CASH ONLY)
SHOW/DINNER PACKAGES AVAILABLE ONLINE • FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 749-4363

NO DRINK MINIMUM! • SEATING FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE • INTENDED FOR MATURE AUDIENCES • LINE-UP SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Pro-gun rally by thousands in Virginia ends peacefully

By **ALAN SUDERMAN and SARAH RANKIN**

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) —

Tens of thousands of gun-rights activists from around the country rallied peacefully at the Virginia Capitol on Monday to protest plans by the state's Democratic leadership to pass gun-control legislation — a move that has become a key flash point in the national debate over gun violence.

The size of the crowd and the expected participation of white supremacists and fringe militia groups raised fears that the state could see a repeat of the violence that exploded in 2017 in Charlottesville. But the rally concluded uneventfully around noon, and the mood was largely festive, with rally-goers chanting "USA!" and waving signs denouncing Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam.

Many protesters chose not to enter the designated rally zone, where Northam had imposed a temporary weapons ban, and instead packed surrounding streets, many dressed in tactical gear and camouflage and carrying military-style rifles as they cheered on the speakers.

"I love this. This is like the Super Bowl for the Second Amendment right here," said P.J. Hudson, a truck driver from Richmond who carried an AR-15 rifle just outside Capitol Square. He was one of the few African American rally-goers in a crowd that was overwhelmingly white and male, and was frequently stopped and asked to pose for pictures wearing his "Black Guns Matter" sweatshirt.

An estimated 22,000 people attended, according to authorities, who said one woman was arrested on felony charge of wearing a mask in public.

The protesters came out despite the frigid temperature to send a message to legislators, they said.

"The government doesn't run us, we run the government," said Kem Regik, a 20-year-old private security officer from northern Virgin-



Demonstrators stand outside a security zone before a pro gun rally, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

ia who brought a white flag with a picture of a rifle captioned, "Come and take it." Northam was a particular focus of the protesters' wrath. One poster showed his face superimposed on Adolf Hitler's body.

The governor said in a statement he was "thankful" the day passed peacefully and that "he will continue to listen to the voices" of Virginians while doing everything in his power "to keep our commonwealth safe."

"The issues before us evoke strong emotions, and progress is often difficult," Northam said.

Democratic lawmakers said the rally wouldn't impact their plans to pass gun-control measures, including universal background checks and a one-handgun-purchase-a-month limit. Democrats say tightening Virginia's gun laws will make communities safer and help prevent mass shootings like the one last year in Virginia Beach, where a dozen people were killed in a municipal building.

"I was prepared to see a whole lot more people show up than actually did and I think it's an indication that a lot of this rhetoric is bluster, quite frankly," said Del. Chris Hurst, a gun-control advocate whose

TV journalist girlfriend was killed in an on-air shooting in 2015.

Some of the protesters waved flags with messages of support for President Donald Trump. Trump, in turn, tweeted support for their goals.

"The Democrat Party in the Great Commonwealth of Virginia are working hard to take away your 2nd Amendment rights," he tweeted. "This is just the beginning. Don't let it happen, VOTE REPUBLICAN in 2020!"

The Virginia State Police, the Virginia Capitol Police and the Richmond Police had a heavy presence, with officers deploying on rooftops, patrolling in cars and on bicycles.

Authorities were looking to avoid a repeat of the violence that erupted in Charlottesville during one of the largest gatherings of white supremacists and other far-right groups in a decade. Attendees brawled with counterprotesters, and an avowed white supremacist drove his car into a crowd, killing a woman and injuring dozens more. Law enforcement officials faced scathing criticism for what both the white supremacist groups and anti-racism protesters said was a passive response.

On Monday, Southern Pov-

erty Law Center staff members attended the rally and identified members of extremist militia groups, including the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, as well as the League of the South, according to outreach director Lecia Brooks. The League of the South, which the center designates a hate group, advocates for Southern secession.

In contrast to Charlottesville, there was little sign of counterprotesters challenging the gun-rights activists.

Police limited access to Capitol Square to only one entrance, and a long line formed to get into the rally zone.

Gun-rights advocates also filled the hallways of the building that houses lawmakers' offices. One couple, Jared and Marie March, traveled from Floyd County, over three hours west of Richmond, to meet with lawmakers.

"Guns are a way of life where we live," said Marie March, who was concerned about a proposed red-flag law she said would allow citizens to be stripped of their guns due to "subjective criteria." A proposal to establish universal background checks amounted to "more Big Brother," she

said. "We just feel like we need to push government back into their rightful spot." Monday's rally was organized by an influential grassroots gun-rights group, the Virginia Citizens Defense League. The group holds a yearly rally at the Capitol, typically a low-key event with a few hundred gun enthusiasts listening to speeches from a handful of Republican lawmakers. But this year's event was unprecedented. Second Amendment groups have identified the state as a rallying point for the fight against what they see as a national erosion of gun rights.

The pushback against proposed new gun restrictions began immediately after Democrats won majorities in both the state Senate and House of Delegates in November, with much of the opposition focused on a proposed assault weapons ban. More than 100 localities have since passed measures declaring support for the Second Amendment.

Erich Pratt, senior vice president of Gun Owners of America, said voters need to replace the Democrats in control of the government in Virginia.

"We need to throw the bums out. We need to clean house in the next election," he told the crowd.

House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert complimented the behavior of the rally-goers and said Democrats should take a lesson from them.

"The law-abiding gun owners in attendance today are the ones who would bear the brunt of their anti-gun proposals, which would have little to no impact on crime or criminals," he said in a statement.

The rally coincided with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which is typically a chance for everyday citizens to use a day off work to lobby their legislators. However, the threat of violence largely kept other groups away from the Capitol, including gun control groups that hold an annual vigil for victims of gun violence. □

SAVE 25% With online reservations on Super Saver days. No exceptions.

JOLLY PIRATE TICKETS

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING! 9am-1pm \$70pp Visit 3 Great sites BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!	AFTERNOON SNORKEL 2-5pm \$55pp 2 snorkel sites Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!	SUNSET SAIL 5:30-7:30pm \$35pp Spectacular views Open Bar & Ropeswing!
--	--	--

www.jolly-pirates.com
Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers.

Suspect in Hawaii officers' deaths described as unhinged

By **CALEB JONES** and **JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER**

HONOLULU (AP) — A Hawaii handyman with a history of run-ins with police and neighbors faced eviction when he stabbed a woman and killed two officers before the house he and two women were believed to be inside burned, authorities and neighbors said.

Police responding Sunday to a call for help at the location found a woman stabbed in the leg and resident Jaroslav "Jerry" Hanel, began shooting, killing Officers Tiffany Enriquez, a seven-year veteran, and Kaulike Kalama, a nine-year veteran, Honolulu Police Chief Susan Ballard said.

Police suspect Hanel, who was in his 60s, and two women who have not been identified were inside the house when it caught fire. They were presumed dead and Ballard said it could take days to recover the remains and process evidence.

The fire destroyed seven homes and left others damaged. As it raged, the sound of dozens of apparent gunshots rang out.

Ballard said no other officers were injured but authorities were investigating whether ammunition, incendiary devices or explosives contributed to the intensity of the blaze. The apparent gunfire prompted authorities to initially prevent firefighters from approaching. Sgt. Malcolm Lutu, president of Hawaii's statewide police union, said he does not have any concerns about the approach police took in dealing with the situ-

ation.

"They had past dealings with him where no violence was present," Lutu said. "Where the shots came from, they were in a no-win situation."

Lutu said he knew one of the two officers personally. He said Officer Tiffany Enriquez, 37, was a single mother of three daughters and had one grandchild.

The homeowner, Lois Cain, had recently sought to evict Hanel, who lived in the home for free in exchange for his work, according to court records and his lawyer.

Two neighbors told The Associated Press they saw a woman believed to be Cain being put into an ambulance suffering from knife wounds. Her condition was not disclosed.

The normally peaceful neighborhood is at the far end of famed Waikiki Beach.

Ian Felix, a Honolulu resident and combat veteran with medical training, told the AP he was walking by the home when he saw a woman lying on the ground with blood coming from her leg.

Felix put a tourniquet on the woman's leg until the first police officer arrived. Two more officers arrived moments later; Felix said he then heard two gunshots and that he and the officer carried the injured woman into a neighbor's garage.

Neighbors described Hanel as mentally disturbed and Ballard said he did not have any gun permits.

Hawaii has some of the toughest gun laws in the U.S. Residents can't buy firearms without permits



This undated photo provided by the Honolulu Police Department shows Officers Tiffany Enriquez, left, and Kaulike Kalama. Enriquez and Kalama were killed Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, while responding to a call.

Associated Press

approved by local police, who check databases to make sure applicants have not been convicted of felonies or misdemeanor crimes.

People are also denied permits if they have been acquitted of crimes because of mental problems or have been diagnosed with significant mental, behavioral or emotional disorders.

Attorney Jonathan Burge has represented Hanel since 2015 in various disputes with neighbors, including temporary restraining orders that three obtained against him. Hanel, a native of the Czech Republic who used Czech interpreters in court, faced a hearing next week on a charge of misusing 911 services, Burge said Sunday. Burge said he never knew Hanel to be violent, but that "he's kind of a quirky guy and had problems." Hanel

believed the government was watching him and tapping his phone, Burge said. Cain was supportive of him in his disputes with neighbors, Burge said, but she wanted him to move out so she could move into the home. Burge said their relationship also soured because Hanel's dog had died and Cain wouldn't let him get a new one, and the eviction might have set Hanel off.

In the complaint for Hanel's eviction, Cain said Hanel did not have a rental agreement and that despite repeated demands, he refused to vacate the premises.

Attorney David Hayakawa has represented three neighbors in restraining orders against Hanel since 2014. The neighbors complained of bizarre and annoying behavior including Hanel chasing cars down

the street, confronting their guests and workers who came to their homes, recording them with a GoPro camera mounted to his hat and rigging a barbecue grill to blow thick smoke directly into their windows, Hayakawa said. "Just crazy things," he said. "It was pretty clear he was out of control."

He would hide in bushes and watch people and he yelled at tourists who were lost while trying to get to Diamond Head, Hayakawa said.

"He was kind of in his own mind, block security," Hayakawa said. When a woman who lived in the area would walk her dog or jog past Hanel's home, "he focused on her and would take her picture," Hayakawa said.

A judge sided with his clients "every step of the way," Hayakawa said. □

UK looks to fast-growing Africa for trade ties after Brexit

By JILL LAWLESS and CARA ANNA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Harry touted the U.K. as an ideal business partner for Africa on Monday as their country prepares for post-Brexit dealings with the world.

But Britain faces tough challenges as it seeks to assert itself on a continent with several of the world's fastest-growing economies, and one whose youthful 1.2 billion population is set to double by 2050.

Far fewer of Africa's 54 heads of state or government were attending the first U.K.-Africa Investment Summit than the dozens who attended the first Russia-Africa summit last year or the gatherings China regularly holds.

The U.K.'s department for international trade says two-way trade with Africa in the year ending in the second quarter of 2019 was \$46 billion. Meanwhile, Africa's two-way trade with China, the continent's top trading partner, was \$208 billion in



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, front center, hosts the UK Africa Investment Summit in London, Monday Jan. 20, 2020. Boris Johnson is hosting 54 African heads of state or government in London. The move comes as the U.K. prepares for post-Brexit dealings with the world. Front row from left, Senegal's President Macky Sall, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari. Center row from left, Malawi's President Peter Mutharika, Britain's Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, Guinea's President Alpha Conde, Britain's International Trade Secretary Liz Truss. Top row from left, Angola's President Joao Lourenco, Algeria's President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, World Bank President David Malpass, UN executive secretary of Economic Commission for Africa Vera Songwe and IMF Africa Director Abebe Aemro Selassie.

Associated Press

2019.

Johnson told attendees the conference "is long overdue." He acknowledged

that British officials and companies need to work to convince African nations to do business with the U.K.

"We have no divine right to that business," he said. "This is a competitive world. You have many suitors" — espe-

cially China and Russia. Britain is due to leave the European Union on Jan. 31, and Johnson said the U.K. would become "a global free trading nation" after Brexit. He pledged that the post-Brexit immigration system would "put people before passports," acknowledging a common frustration across Africa. While other global powers including Gulf nations and India have been increasing their diplomatic and economic presence in Africa, some observers have wondered about the interest of Britain, a former colonizer. When Theresa May visited Kenya in 2018, even Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta noted it was the first visit to East Africa's economic hub by a British prime minister in more than three decades. Johnson stressed that he had visited about a dozen African countries when he was British foreign secretary between 2017 and 2019. He said "billions of pounds worth of deals" would be sealed at Monday's summit, including major clean-energy projects. □



The logo of the World Economic Forum is displayed on a door at the Congress Centre in Davos, Switzerland, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

By PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Rising income inequality is undermining confidence in capitalism around the world, according to a survey conducted by public relations firm Edelman ahead of the gathering of the elites in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

Among those surveyed in the report published Mon-

day, 56% thought that capitalism was doing more harm than good despite another year of solid economic growth and near-full employment in many developed countries.

The stark finding could cause a stir among the business executives and political leaders as they make their way to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Rising inequality eroding trust in capitalism - survey

"We are living in a trust paradox," said Richard Edelman, the CEO of Edelman, which has been conducting its survey of trust for 20 years. "Since we began measuring trust, economic growth has fostered rising trust."

Though that relationship between economic growth and faith in the system remains in developing areas such as Middle East and Asia, the survey found that rising inequality in many rich countries has contributed to a weakening in trust in capitalism.

"Fears are stifling hope, and long-held assumptions about hard work leading to upward mobility are now invalid," Edelman said. Corruption, corporate misbehavior and fake news are eroding trust, Edelman

said, as are fears over automation in the workplace, a lack of training, immigration and the gig economy. According to the survey, 83% of employees globally are concerned about their jobs.

Business and NGOs are the institutions that people most trust to deal with global issues, a blow to governments riven by populist and partisan politics.

Climate issues are among the most important, and business leaders can no longer brush aside consumer concerns as brands can be quickly tarnished if they are deemed to be unethical.

"There is a growing risk of brands getting sucked in and CEOs have a mandate from customers and employees to act," Edel-

man said.

Just recently, BlackRock CEO Laurence Fink said his firm, which manages some \$7 trillion for investors, will put climate change and sustainability at the heart of its investing approach. And Credit Suisse, following a protest of its activities at a branch in Switzerland, has said it would stop investing in new coal-fired power plants.

Consumer goods giant Unilever, the maker of Sure deodorants or Comfort fabric conditioners, promised to halve its use of virgin plastic by 2025.

"Business is a catalyst for change," said Edelman. The survey involved 30-minute online interviews in 28 countries between Oct. 19 and Nov. 18 with more than 34,000 people worldwide. □

Human-to-human transmission confirmed in China coronavirus

By **YANAN WANG** and **KEN MORITSUGU**

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The head of a Chinese government expert team said Monday that human-to-human transmission has been confirmed in an outbreak of a new coronavirus, a development that raises the possibility that it could spread more quickly and widely. Team leader Zhong Nanshan, a respiratory expert, said two people in Guangdong province in southern China caught the virus from family members, state media said. Some medical workers have also tested positive for the virus, the English-language China Daily newspaper reported. The late-night announcement capped a day in which authorities announced a sharp uptick in the number of confirmed cases to more than 200, and China's leader called on the government to take every possible step to combat the outbreak.

"The recent outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan and other places must be taken seriously," President Xi Jinping said in his first public statement on the crisis. "Party committees, governments and relevant departments

at all levels should put people's lives and health first."

Xi's remarks were reported by state broadcaster CCTV on its main 7 p.m. evening news broadcast.

The spread of the viral pneumonia comes as the country enters its busiest travel period, when millions board trains and planes for the Lunar New Year holidays. The outbreak is believed to have started late last month when people picked it up at a fresh food market in Wuhan, a city in central China.

Wuhan health authorities said Monday an additional 136 cases have been confirmed in the city, raising the total to 198. Three have died.

Authorities elsewhere also announced cases in other Chinese cities for the first time.

Five individuals in Beijing and 14 in Guangdong have also been diagnosed with the new coronavirus, CCTV reported Monday evening. A total of seven suspected cases have been found in other parts of the country, including in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in the southwest and in Shanghai. Zhong said the two people in Guangdong had not been to Wuhan but fell ill after family members had



Travelers wear face masks as they walk outside of the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

returned from the city, the China Daily said.

The outbreak has put other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for Lunar New Year. Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have already identified at least three cases, all involving recent travel from China.

South Korea reported its first case Monday, when a 35-year-old Chinese woman from Wuhan tested positive for the new coronavirus

one day after arriving at Seoul's Incheon airport. The woman has been isolated at a state-run hospital in Incheon city, just west of Seoul, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement.

At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China.

Videos posted online show

people in protective suits checking one-by-one the temperatures of plane passengers arriving in Macao from Wuhan. A man surnamed Yang who works for the Macao Health Bureau confirmed over the phone that such checks are taking place in the southern Chinese region.

Many of the initial cases of the coronavirus were linked to a seafood market in Wuhan, which was closed as authorities investigated. □

Malaysia sends back trash, says won't be world's waste bin

PENANG, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia has sent back 150 containers of plastic waste to 13 mainly rich countries since the third quarter last year, with the environment minister warning on Monday that those who want to make the country a rubbish bin of the world can "dream on."

Shipments of unwanted rubbish have been rerouted to Southeast Asia since China banned the import of plastic waste in 2018, but Malaysia and other developing countries are fighting back.

Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said another 110 containers are expected to be sent back by the middle

of this year.

Yeo said the successful repatriation of a total 3,737 metric tonnes (4,120 U.S. tons) of waste followed strict enforcement at key Malaysian ports to block smuggling of waste and shuttering more than 200 illegal plastic recycling factories.

Of the 150 containers, 43 were returned to France, 42 to the United Kingdom, 17 to the United States, 11 to Canada, 10 to Spain and the rest to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Portugal, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania, her ministry said.

She said the Malaysian government didn't pay a

single cent, with the costs of sending back the waste fully borne by the shipping liners and companies responsible for importing and exporting the waste.

Yeo said talks were ongoing with U.S. authorities to take back another 60 containers this year.

Canada also has 15 more containers, Japan 14, the U.K. 9 and Belgium 8 from 110 more containers that are still being held at Malaysian ports, she said.

"If people want to see us as the rubbish dump of the world, you dream on," Yeo told reporters during inspection at a port in northern Penang state.

Yeo said the government



Malaysia's Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin speaks during a press conference after inspecting a container with plastic waste at a port in Butterworth, Malaysia, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

will launch an action plan on illegal plastic importation next month that will help the different agencies coordinate enforcement and speed up the process of returning the waste.

"Our position is very firm. We just want to send back (the waste) and we just want to give a message that Malaysia is not the dumping site of the world," she added. □

Myanmar panel: Security forces likely committed war crimes

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar

(AP) — An independent commission established by Myanmar's government has concluded there are reasons to believe that security forces committed war crimes in counterinsurgency operations that led more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

However, the commission, headed by a Philippine diplomat, said in a report given Monday to President Win Myint that there is no evidence supporting charges that genocide was planned or carried out against the Rohingya.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry announced its findings in a statement posted on its Facebook page and the full report does not appear to have been publicly released. Nevertheless, it went further than any public statements issued by Myanmar's government in suggesting government forces were guilty of major abuses.

"Although these serious crimes and violations were committed by multiple actors, there are reasonable grounds to believe that members of Myanmar's security forces were involved" in war crimes, serious human rights violations, and



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, shakes hands with Philippine diplomat Rosario Manalo, a member of the Independent Commission of Enquiry for Rakhine State, at the Presidential Palace in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

violations of domestic law in 2017, it said.

"The killing of innocent villagers and destruction of their homes were committed by some members of the Myanmar's security forces through disproportionate use of force during the internal armed conflict," it said.

The statement came ahead of a decision by the United Nations' top court,

scheduled for Thursday, on a request that Myanmar be ordered to halt what has been cast as a genocidal campaign against the Rohingya. Gambia brought legal action last year to the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands, alleging on behalf of the 57-country Organization of Islamic Cooperation that genocide occurred and continues.

State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's top leader, strongly denied wrongdoing by government forces at the initial hearing on the case in December.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long considered the Rohingya to be "Bengalis" from Bangladesh even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all

have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless, and they are also denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

The long-simmering crisis exploded in August 2017 when Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in northern Rakhine State in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh and led to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes, killings and burned thousands of homes.

Though she has no control over the country's military, Suu Kyi's response to the crisis has led to global condemnation of the Nobel peace laureate.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry statement Monday said its members also met with Suu Kyi when submitting the report.

In addition to finding a basis for wrongdoing by security forces, the statement said the report also points out that the security forces acted in response to deadly attacks organized by Rohingya guerrillas belonging to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army — ARSA. □



In this Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, file photo, a Sri Lankan ethnic Tamil woman cries holding a portrait of her missing son during a protest in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Associated Press

By **KRISHAN FRANCIS**

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— Sri Lanka's president has decided that tens of thousands of people still missing from the country's quarter-century civil war will be formally declared dead and

death certificates will be issued, his office said Monday.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa made his decision known last week during a meeting with the United Nations' resident coordinator in Colombo, his office

Sri Lanka to treat war-missing as dead, issue certificates

said in a statement. "Most of them had been taken by the LTTE (Tamil Tiger rebels) or forcefully conscripted. The families of the missing attest to it," the statement said. "However they do not know what has become of them and so claim them to be missing." Relatives have been protesting for years demanding to know the whereabouts of mostly ethnic Tamils who went missing during Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war, which ended in 2009 with the government's defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels. The rebels were fighting for an indepen-

dent state for the country's ethnic minority Tamils.

Scores of fighters went missing in action while others were abducted by security forces and government paramilitaries as well as the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Relatives say they handed over hundreds of their family members after government forces asked those with the remotest link to the rebels to surrender as they faced defeat in 2009. They say they are not heard from after being taken away by the military in buses.

An Office on Missing Persons set up in 2015 has been investigating 23,586

cases, including those of 5,000 security forces.

A law enacted in 2016 mandated that an interim report be given to the relatives if there is sufficient evidence that the relevant person is missing. At the end of an investigation a final report will be given to enable the relatives to obtain a Certificate of Absence or a Death Certificate as per the outcome.

It was unclear how Rajapaksa's government came to the conclusion that all the missing persons were dead. Rajapaksa was a top defense official during the war. □

Libyan oil fields remain shut, testing peace summit

By RAMI MUSA and ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

BENHAZI, Libya (AP) —

Libya's major oil fields and production facilities remained closed on Monday, its national oil company said, in a sign that the country's east-based forces are not backing down after an international summit to end the Libyan civil war.

The Libyan National Oil Corporation confirmed it had invoked force majeure on oil exports from two key southern fields, a clause that allows for a failure to fulfill international contracts due to a sudden disruptive event.

The continued closure of virtually all of Libya's oil facilities by eastern Libyan forces ratchets up pressure on their adversaries in the west, the U.N.-backed government that controls the capital, Tripoli.

World powers with interests in Libya's long-running conflict pledged on Sunday to respect a much-violated arms embargo and push opposing factions to reach a truce.

But on the ground, tensions remained high. As world leaders convened about military de-escalation, observers said scattered clashes erupted outside Tripoli, testing a tenuous week-old cease-fire.

Former general Khalifa Hifter's east-based forces have been laying siege to the capital for months.

"People are holding their breath," said Mohamed Eljarh, a political analyst who is based in the eastern city of Tobruk.

"I am worried there is no appetite among the warring parties and their constituencies for a truce right now," Eljarh added.

A doctor and resident of southern Tripoli, Mohamed Malek, 27, said he fled his neighborhood late Sunday when he heard sporadic exchanges of gunfire.

Another Tripoli resident, Ahmed Werfali, 34, said he heard a loud explosion early Monday, and limited fighting overnight. But the violence was far less than the routine pounding of heavy weaponry before the cease-fire, he said.



In this Feb. 26, 2011 file photo, a Libyan oil worker, works at a refinery inside the Brega oil complex, in Brega, eastern Libya.

Associated Press

Aid workers in the capital's southern suburbs said they had not been able to recover corpses for several days because of continued fighting.

"We found six corpses stuck under rubble but there was intense shooting and we couldn't reach them until today," said Assad Jaafar, a spokesman for Libya's Red Crescent.

Dozens of men from tribal groups loyal to Hifter continued on Monday to camp out in the two southern oil fields, al-Sharara, Libya's largest, and al-Feel.

Hifter's tribal allies closed a major pipeline over the weekend, stopping about 380,000 barrels per day of production and potentially cutting national output to a small fraction of its normal level. "This sit-in will continue," vowed Mohamed Maikal, the leader of the group that seized the fields, known as Fezzan. "There is a pessimistic situation after what happened in Berlin." The protesters accuse the Tripoli-based government, which controls Libya's Central Bank, of using oil revenues to fund military opera-

tions against Hifter's forces. The shut-down of production in the south follows the weekend closure of all eastern export terminals. Only offshore fields and one smaller facility remain operational, the national oil company said.

Oil, the lifeline of Libya's economy, has long been a key factor in the civil war, as rival authorities jostle for control of oil fields and state revenue. Libya has the ninth largest known oil reserves in the world and the biggest oil reserves in Africa. □

Israel building underground defense system on Lebanon border

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's military said it began construction of an underground defense system Sunday along its northern frontier with Lebanon to protect against cross-border tunnels.

The infrastructure project will identify underground acoustic and seismic activity indicating tunnel digging, accompanied other defensive measures, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman.

Israel destroyed a series of what it said were attack tunnels last year, dug under the border by the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The group battled Israel to

a stalemate in a month-long war in 2006. Hezbollah is closely allied with Iran, Israel's greatest regional foe, and has vowed to retaliate for America's killing of a top Iranian general in a drone strike earlier this month.

Conricus said the construction would all be on the Israeli side of the border and that United Nations peacekeepers along the frontier had been notified.

"What we are doing today is part of a larger plan," he said. "We understand that our activity may be seen and will be heard on the other side and we want to explain what we are doing and why we are do-

ing it. It is a matter of precaution."

Israel recently warned that Hezbollah had beefed up its presence along the volatile frontier.

Israel and Hezbollah's 2006 war ended in a U.N.-brokered cease-fire. While direct fighting has been rare since then, there has been occasional violence. The most recent flare-up was in September, when Hezbollah fired a barrage of anti-tank missiles into Israel and Israel responded with artillery fire. There were no casualties on either side.

Israel also has acknowledged carrying out scores of airstrikes in neighboring



Sept. 2, 2019, file photo, Spanish UN peacekeepers patrol along the Lebanese-Israeli border, with the Israeli village of Metulla, background, in the village of Kfar Kila, Lebanon.

Associated Press

Syria, many of them believed to have been aimed at Iranian weapons shipments bound for its Hezbollah proxy. Hezbollah has a battle-tested army that has been fighting alongside the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad in Syria's

civil war. Israel believes the group has an arsenal of some 130,000 missiles and rockets capable of striking virtually anywhere in Israel. More recently, it has accused the group of trying to import or develop guided missiles. □

Survivor recounts confused, chaotic cult rite that killed 7

By **JUAN ZAMORANO**

SANTIAGO, Panama (AP)

— A survivor of the cult ceremony that killed 7 people in a remote village in Panama says she was ordered to close her eyes, was beaten and knocked unconscious during the ritual.

The account Monday by Dina Blanco suggests the 14 surviving participants were helpless, bound, unconscious or sightless much of the time.

So the truth about what happened in the bizarre ceremony may only come out at the trials of the nine villagers charged with killing their neighbors in the hamlet of El Terrón last week.

Blanco said from her hospital bed in the nearest city, Santiago, that she had gone to previous prayer meetings at the improvised church in a long wooden shed before. But this time, the tone had changed, and she didn't go willingly. The cult, which had operated in the village for about three months, changed after a member had a vision, telling the lay preachers they had been "annointed" to exterminate unbelievers. Blanco, 24, said a neighbor, Olivia, came to call her to the meeting of "the New Light of God" sect on Jan. 13, saying she would have to come "whether you like it or not."

So she went — along with



Dina Blanco show injuries on her back during an interview at Luis Fabrega Hospital in Santiago, Panama, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

her 9-year-old daughter, who had epilepsy, her 15-year-old son and her father. Her father and her son managed to escape; Blanco and her daughter, Inés, were not so lucky.

When they arrived, they were told not to open their eyes, and to grab each others' hands and pray; the worshipers felt they were physically in the presence of the Lord.

"I felt something hit my head, and then I don't what happened to me. I dropped to my knees," said

the short, dark-haired Blanco.

Authorities say cult members used Bibles, cudgels and machetes to hit the congregants. Blanco still bears a broad bruise across her forehead from whatever hit her.

"When I came to, they kept telling me not to open my eyes," she recalled. "I heard drums, an accordion, screams, crying. I was tied up."

Authorities say some of the congregants had been forced to strip, and walk

across glowing embers.

But the worst was yet to come. Late that night or in the early morning hours of the 14th, a sect member approached and told her that her daughter Inés had died.

"The birds of the fields shall dispose of her body," the voice said.

In fact, Inés, like Blanco's pregnant neighbor and five of her children, had been murdered during the ritual — by some accounts, decapitated — and their naked bodies slung into

hammocks and dumped in a freshly-dug common grave in the village cemetery.

Nine of the 10 lay preachers detained last week have been charged with murder and kidnapping.

Bibles still lay open and musical instruments lay scattered over the weekend in the shed where the killings took place.

Indigenous leader Evangelisto Santo has said that during the ceremony, "People were dancing and singing and nobody paid attention because we knew that they were in the presence of God."

But for Blanco, God was not among those present. "For me, it was hate that was there," she said.

El Terron is nestled in the jungle of the indigenous Ngabe Bugle enclave on Panama's Caribbean coast, and it is largely cut off from the outside world. Its 300 residents must walk hours along steep and muddy narrow roads to hail boats that can transport them along a river to other villages that have electricity, telephones, health clinics and a police presence. In the city of Santiago, Blanco must still undergo scans to rule out internal injuries; she has bruises on her abdomen, back and hands from the beatings. But her what hurts most is in her heart. □



People protest outside the executive mansion known as La Fortaleza in Old San Juan demanding the resignation of Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced after the discovery of an old warehouse filled with emergency supplies in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Dozens of demonstrators

gathered Monday in front of the governor's mansion in

Puerto Rico protesters demand governor's resignation

Puerto Rico's capital to demand the resignation of the U.S. territory's governor and protest the recent discovery of apparently forgotten disaster supplies amid ongoing earthquakes. The scene reminded many of the beginning of protests that escalated over the summer and led to the resignation of former Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, with demonstrators once again vowing to remain in the streets until current Gov. Wanda Vázquez steps down.

The protest came a day af-

ter Vázquez fired two more high-ranking officials in her administration, Housing Secretary Fernando Gil and Department of Family Secretary Glorimar Andújar, over the lack of information regarding aid collection and distribution centers. On Saturday, she fired former emergency management director Carlos Acevedo. Vázquez said she had lost confidence in those officials after the discovery of a warehouse in the southern coastal city of Ponce that was filled with disaster

supplies dating from when Hurricane Maria hit the island in September 2017 as a Category 4 storm.

She ordered an investigation into the incident and said those who broke into the warehouse to distribute supplies to people affected by a recent 6.4 magnitude earthquake that killed one person and caused more than an estimated \$200 million in damage would not be prosecuted.

The investigation was scheduled to be completed on Monday. □

LOCAL



New campaign launch is unique:

One million dollar cash to win at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton



PALM BEACH — It was an exciting moment yesterday afternoon at The Casino of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba when the enthusiastic team announced the new campaign for this year. Communications Manager Yahira Santoni, Communications & Promotions Manager Joanna Maya and Director of Casino Operations Axl Ismael surprised the local press with a unique campaign: one million dollars cash to win!

Ismael: "I cannot be more thrilled to announce another great campaign for The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. This is a historic moment because this campaign's price has not been offered before in the Caribbean. We closed 2019 with the winner of our Deal or Wheel campaign who could choose between a Ferrari 488 Spider and 250,000 dollar cash. This year we even have a bigger price. Rumor has that speculations went from a boat to a house to a Bugatti but it is nothing less than one million cash dollars!"

Maya goes into the details of this amazing campaign by explaining the conditions to participate. "This is easy, you need to be a VIP member which can be done by showing your ID at the desk and register your membership."

With your VIP membership card you can play at the slot machines and for each 80 points you will gain a ticket to be part of our new campaign that might turn you into a millionaire. There will be five draws and the first one will be on March 31st. We will have 15 possible winners that will be in the run for the big price. The first five finalists will be announced on February 29, the following five on March 31st.



There will also be a special promotion for our top players (table and slot machines) in the months of February and March where the last five finalists will be selected from to participate in the Grand Finale.

Santoni elaborates on how to win a ticket by dining in the hotel's restaurants, Casa Nonna and BLT Steak. "After your dinner at one of our restaurants you will receive a voucher which allows you to play at the casino and participate in this unique campaign." □

For more information on The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba:

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
L.G. Smith Boulevard 107, Palm Beach
www.facebook.com/thecasinoattheritzcarltonaruba
<https://ritzcarlton-local-news.com/Aruba>



Article by Etnia Nativa
 WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
 Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



The Qudi, an Aruban native heritage

Episode LIII -53

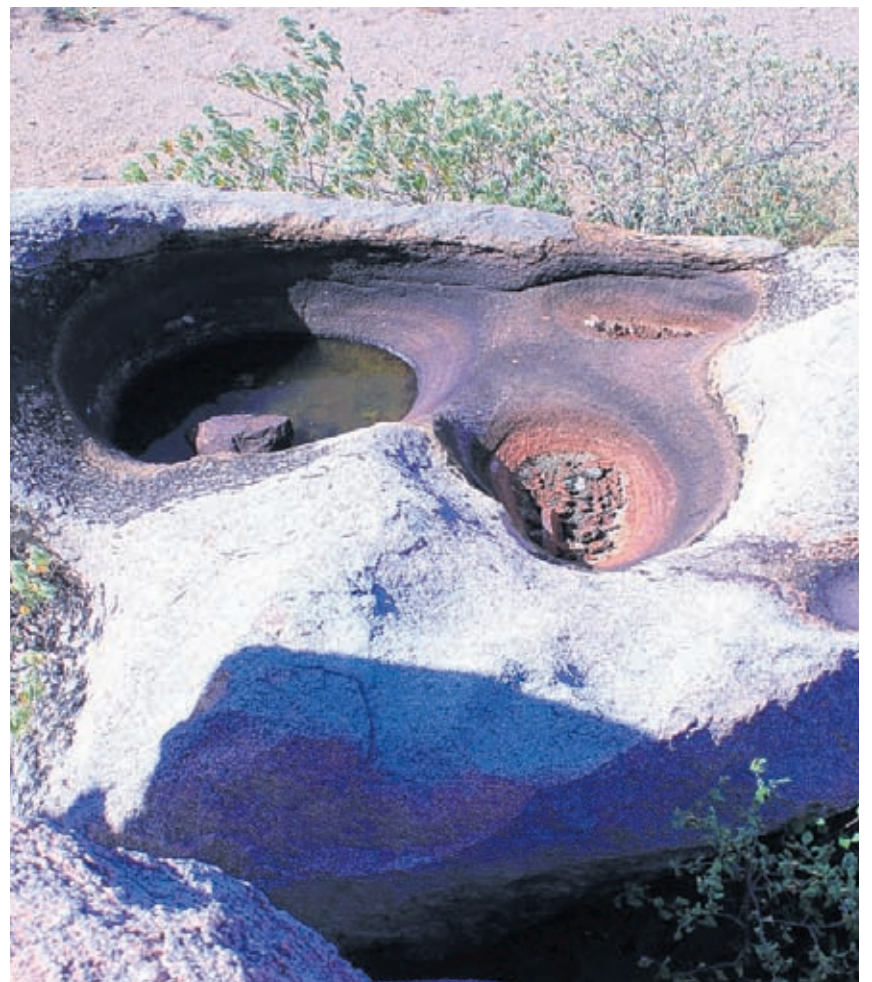
ORANJESTAD — Qudi must be an old native name for our island's native grinding stones, since in Papiamentu it is called "Piedra di mula" (Pie` di mula) grinding stone. However the word Qudi also means a depression or hole in a hard rock surface or bolder that can hold rain water for a longer time, which is till the next rain fall. Qudi as waterholes, small sink holes in the flat lime stone floor where coral meets the rocky island and where little springs sometimes occurs. Now the Qudi as a native Aruban milling stone is a symbol of sedentary survival that goes back thousands of years. One of Aruba`s native heritage symbols. Ancestral milling stone or Qudi accompanied by its perfect shaped pestle or manga.

Both stones finally will shape each other. The Qudi`s are usually made out of granite rock of the island`s batholite formation. But for the manga you must go to the north coast where the rooi dry river bed meets the beach to pick a rounded stone to fit the shape of the depression of the grinding stone. Primary commodity, the preferred material to be transformed in to Aruba's unique milling stones. A lithic testimony of local Agro- potters. Was it a Caquetian heritage or else?

The Qudi`s basic mechanical purpose is to grind and to polish. Using its surface as anvil and the manga stone as the pestle (primarily) maize was ground into flour. Corn flour a symbol of spiritual transformation embraced in the mystery of life, death and rebirth. Qudi`s were traditionally pass over to the eldest aunt or sister as keeper matriarch in line and guardian of the stone, it seems that Qudi`s, Mortar`s or Metate`s held a strong meaning for human life, death and the hope for a rebirth or transformation of some kind for many cultures all over.

Typically a large stones with a smooth depression or bowl worn into the upper surface is enough. The bowl is formed whether by weather or by the continual and long-term grinding of materials by using a smooth hand-held manga, stone (aka : mano) for a proficient method of turning grains into flour. The laborious action consists of a horizontal grinding motion that differs from the vertical crushing motion used in a mortar and pestle. Deeper metate bowls indicate either a longer period of use or greater degree of activity. In traditional Amerindian culture, quid`s were typically used by women who would grind maize and other organic materials during food preparation. Making a sort of tortillas, cachapa or pan batí bread.

Continued on Page 15



Betico Day
B I N G O
 Saturday, January 25 at 1pm

- 8 Games to Play
- \$8.50 for 4 Cards
- \$2,000 in Total Payouts!
- Special Door Prizes

\$19,391 PROGRESSIVE*

Progressive within 51 Calls	Progressive within 52 Calls	Progressive within 53+ Calls
\$500	\$300	\$200

Double your prize with **POWERBALL 1-25!****

*Progressive within 50 calls, amount unless hit before 1/25/20
 **Except on Progressive

Alhambra
 CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47
 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

The Qudi, an Aruban native heritage

Episode LIII -53

Continued from Page 14

Beyond grinding cereals, seeds and legumes, Qudi's were used to elaborate healing potions, grinding clay, milling fish bones, extract natural dye of vegetation and minerals and in the elaboration of ropes, an unimaginable ways of usage and applications. Sad is the unfathomable loss Island cultural heritage has suffers through illegal export to foreign collector's during the late 70's.

Little considered artifacts by many archaeologists, seen as simply as a common everyday tools, therefore overlooked their symbolic significance. However a methodological approach will reveal how central it was for a native existence. The ancient manufacturers and users of these grinding stones could be of older heritage. Acknowledge the tremendous impact it had on the traditional islander physical and sustainable welfare. It is of vital importance to catalog family owners, stories and origins of the Qudis left, tracing generations trough the life cycle of all of those whose life depended of these iconic artifacts, From production (Born)to discard (dead) from the modern society. That is why it is responsible that these stones which were so fundamental to Aruba's pre-Hispanic agriculturalists and corn-based cuisines culture be preserved and banned as export material.

Qudi y su manga, grinding stone and its pestle have continued to sustain life-not just literally, in terms of food and culture. To find a nature made Qudi you could once go walk about and find a carved stone left and even one carved by the old ones. The Qudi represents one of the most unusual and complex traditions of pre Columbian artifacts. They come in many different forms, and morphological variation corresponds to different regions or quarries. They can be circular, rectangular, flat, or curved. They may or may not have rims. Some show signs of use-wear while others show over use where a hole appeared to be grinded out of bottom, making it useless in a way. Some examples where later also made out of limestone or coral and used as a fresh water filter.□



To get to know more about Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session which has been entertaining Scientists and curious bohemians for decades. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com . Our activities take place close to you.



Sailing & Snorkeling Cruise

Includes

- 2.5 Hour snorkeling trip
- Nat Geo certified equipment
- Professional & Certified guides
- 2 Amazing snorkel locations
- Delicious hors d'oeuvres
- Unlimited open bar
- Shaded areas
- Sunbathing trampolines

US\$ **59.00**

BOOK ONLINE

www.pelican-aruba.com

OR CALL DIRECT (+297) 587-2307

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$10 OFF PER COUPLE

Pelican Adventures

Aruba to Me is..... 50 years of love



known nowadays as The Hilton Aruba Resort & Casino. For the last 32 years they have been calling the Holiday Inn Beach Resort their home away from home. They love the warmth and hospitality of Aruba's people. They have made many friends throughout these years. Their love for Aruba is so big that they have the Aruban flag raised in their garden back home and they even named their first dog Aruba."

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: **Aruba to me is** (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

Rene has known them for the past 10 years and they have become like family to him. Each year they take a tour on his boat. They talk about everything going on in Aruba, share some old stories and enjoy the breathtaking sunset. Karen always cries when she sees Aruba's sun go down.

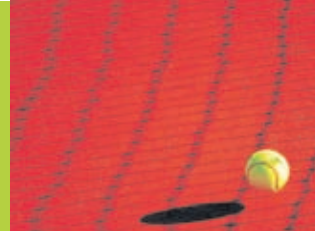
For today's newspaper we received some great pictures from Rene Klooster, Captain of Sunset Boat Aruba. Rene wants to dedicate this column to two special persons who are like family to him. The lucky birds are **Ben and Karen Benita** from Haymarket Virginia, USA. He wrote:

Rene wanted them to feel special for their 50th year visit and surprised them upon their arrival by picking them up at the airport in a limousine. They opened a bottle of champagne and cheered to 50 years more!! Ben and Karen are here with their son Tony, who has been coming to Aruba for 25 years together with his wife Edite. ☐

"Ben and Karen arrived last Saturday in Aruba for their 50th consecutive year. They came to Aruba as honeymooners 50 years ago. For these two love birds Aruba was love at first sight. They stayed at the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, which is



SPORTS



In this Oct. 14, 2004, file photo, St. Louis Cardinals' Larry Walker watches his two-run home run off Houston Astros pitcher Pete Munro in the fifth inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series in St. Louis.

Associated Press

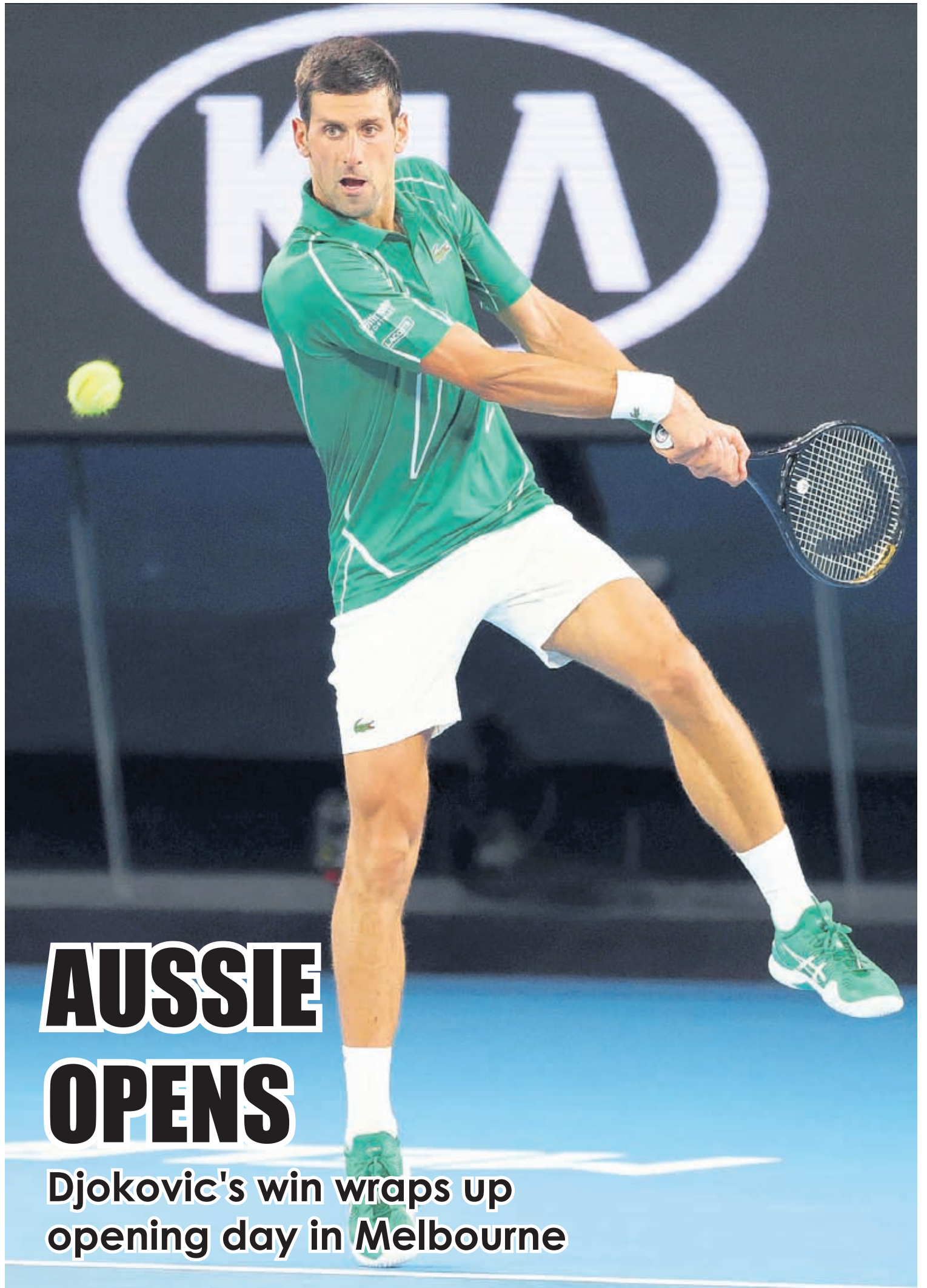
When it comes to unanimous Hall picks, Jeter could be No. 2.

NEW YORK (AP) — When it comes to unanimous picks for baseball's Hall of Fame, Derek Jeter quite appropriately has the chance to be No. 2.

Yankees closer Mariano Rivera became the first player to appear on every ballot when he swept 425 votes in last year's election. Ken Griffey Jr. was three votes short perfection in 2016, breaking the mark of five shy that had been held since 1992 by Tom Seaver. Bill Madden, the longtime New York Daily News baseball writer, said attitudes had changed and Rivera's performance could lead to more 100% results from the Baseball Writers' Association of America, whose 2020 votes are announced Tuesday.

"Nobody wants to be branded or held accountable on social media if they're not voting for an obvious selection," Madden said Monday.

Continued on Page 20



AUSSIE OPENS

Djokovic's win wraps up opening day in Melbourne

Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a backhand return to Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff during their first round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press
Page 19

Gaby Lopez wins LPGA tournament in Florida in 7-hole playoff

By **JEFF BABINEAU**

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Having already battled for five extra holes into darkness without producing a champion a day earlier, Gaby Lopez and Nasa Hataoka showed up to work at 8 a.m., just like regular folks.

The early wake-up call and extra golf was worth it for Lopez, who rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt to prevail on the seventh playoff hole Monday and capture the season-opening Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions.

It was the second LPGA title for Lopez, who 14 months ago became the second player from Mexico to win on tour, joining World Golf Hall of Fame member Lorena Ochoa. She earned \$180,000 for the victory.

The elite field featured 26 players who had won tournaments in the last two seasons.

This was the LPGA's fourth-longest playoff. The longest was 10 holes at the 1972 Corpus Christi Civitan Open, where Jo Ann Prentice beat Hall of Famers Sandra Palmer and Kathy Whitworth.

Lopez and Hataoka wound up playing the difficult 197-yard 18th hole at Tranquilo Golf Club at Four Seasons Golf and Sports Club Orlando eight times over two



Gaby Lopez holds the trophy after winning the Tournament of Champions LPGA golf tournament, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Associated Press

days, with two birdies from Lopez the difference.

Lopez birdied from 18 feet on her final hole of regulation Sunday to earn a spot in the playoff alongside Hataoka and Inbee Park, who was eliminated on the third playoff hole.

Hataoka, who made a deft up-and-down from 30 yards for par to extend the playoff to a seventh hole as play resumed Monday, had the edge on the final

hole after hitting a 4-hybrid that rode a slope along the right side of the green and curled to 12 feet from the hole.

But Lopez, whose ball barely made the putting surface, went first, her putt up the hill slowing and tumbling into the cup on its last rotation. Hataoka, ranked sixth in the world, made a poor stroke, pulling her birdie attempt left.

After a week of warm Flor-

ida weather, temperatures in the mid-40s greeted the women Monday and morning shadows covered the green as they returned to the 18th. The par 3 is long and tough, with a deep bunker in front and rocks and water guarding the left side of the green. Players require hybrids and fairway metals to reach the green. There were only six birdies total made on the hole all week; Lopez owned three of them.

Hataoka had enjoyed her week playing alongside athletes and celebrities — the 49-player celebrity division was won by pitcher and Hall of Famer John Smoltz. But the pressure amped up once the playoff began.

"Being a celebrity pro-am, I thought I was going to just enjoy it and have fun. But then being able to be in the final and do the playoff, that was a really good experience, and I think this would help me in the future," said Hataoka, whose 2020 goals include a No. 1 ranking and an Olympic gold medal in her home country of Japan this summer. "When the tournaments start to get harder and harder, it will be a good lesson for me."

Lopez charged into contention with a 5-under 66 Sunday, and played with

confidence in the playoff. She entered the week ranked 56th but now has momentum to start her fifth LPGA season. In her first LPGA victory, the 2018 Blue Bay LPGA Championship in China, she had the lead and was grouped with the world's top two players at the time, Ariya Jutanugarn and Sun Hyun Park. This time, victory took a different route.

"I proved to myself that I can win in any situation," Lopez said. "My first win was in the lead. My second win was coming from behind. And being able to put all those moments together and recall them while I'm walking on the fairway here and try to stay patient. That's what I proved to myself the most, my ability to stay in the moment."

Park, seeking her 20th LPGA victory, was ousted on the playoff's third hole when her tee shot hit off rocks along the left of the green and bounded into water. Park, Lopez and Hataoka finished 72 holes at 13-under 271.

Lopez was asked if she were relieved she wouldn't have to see Tranquilo's well-worn 18th hole for another year.

"Not really. I mean, I do have a feeling for this hole," Lopez said. "I like it. It was a perfect number for me yesterday, to be honest." □

Attorneys say Hawks' Parsons has career-threatening injuries

By **CHARLES ODUM**

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Chandler Parsons' attorneys say the Atlanta Hawks forward suffered "severe and permanent injuries" in a car wreck last week that could jeopardize his career.

Attorneys John Morgan and Nick Panagakis of the firm Morgan & Morgan say the injuries Parsons suffered in Wednesday's crash include a traumatic brain injury, disk herniation and a torn labrum. Parsons was leaving practice when he was hit by a driver who the attorneys say was charged

with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Sgt. John Chafee of the Atlanta Police Department told The Associated Press that the police report was not available Monday because the public affairs unit was closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday.

The Hawks said last week that Parsons suffered a concussion and whiplash. The team has added "associated disk injury" to his list of injuries.

Parsons remains in the concussion protocol and was not with the team for

Monday's game against Toronto. He was not on the bench for the team's last two games against San Antonio and Detroit.

Parsons' attorneys said in a statement released Monday that the other driver "admitted drinking, had alcohol in the car with him" and "passed out" following the crash. The attorneys say the driver, who was not identified, is responsible for "seriously injuring and potentially ending Mr. Parsons' career as a professional athlete."

The 31-year-old Parsons, acquired from Memphis



In this Nov. 22, 2019, file photo, Atlanta Hawks forward Chandler Parsons (31) passes the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in Detroit.

Associated Press

last summer, has played just five games for the Hawks. He is averaging 2.8

points and is making more than \$25 million in the final year of his contract. □

'My mission was to win': Coco tops Venus at Australian Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — Everyone had the same question when the Australian Open draw was revealed: What were the odds that Coco Gauff and Venus Williams would face each other again in the first round at a Grand Slam tournament?

"I was a bit shocked," Gauff said, "I'm sure everyone was a bit shocked."

Gauff, 15, played Williams, 39, to begin her first appearance in the main draw at Melbourne Park, just like they matched up to start things off at Wimbledon about six months ago. And, just like at the All England Club, the youngest woman in the field got the better of the oldest woman in the field, with Gauff beating Williams 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Monday.

"I definitely was more confident this time. I think I was used to playing on big courts, so the crowd — I guess the size of the crowd didn't startle me as much as last time," Gauff said. "Definitely a bit more positive coming into this match."

It was the most anticipated contest of Day 1 at the first major tennis tournament of the decade, and it did not disappoint. The first set, in particular, was intriguing, with Gauff repeatedly pulling ahead, only to have Williams — who already had won four of her seven Grand Slam singles trophies by the time her foe was born — rebuff her.

It wasn't until her fourth set point that Gauff finally pulled it out. She quickly grabbed a 3-0 lead in the second and never let that edge go.

Gauff already has demonstrated all sorts of terrific qualities on a tennis court, from her big, gutsy serves to an ability to track down opponents' shots. Now you can add stick-to-it-iveness to the list.

The match was held in Margaret Court Arena, one of three stadiums with a retractable roof, and that was a good thing. The air quality was fine, but a heavy storm that arrived in the afternoon suspend-

ed nine matches on outside courts in progress and postponed more than 20 others entirely, creating a jam-packed schedule for Tuesday. The start will be a half-hour earlier than usual, and three courts have seven-match programs.

Among the players who got a chance to play — and win — were Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, 2019 semifinalist Stefanos Tsitsipas, defending women's champion Naomi Osaka, 23-time major champion Serena Williams, No. 1 Ash Barty and 2018 Australian Open winner Caroline Wozniacki, who is retiring after this tournament.

Barty got off to a rough start, dropping her opening set, before asserting herself and coming back for a 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Lesia Tsurenko.

Serena, who is 38, did what her older sister couldn't: defeat a teen.

Other than a brief second-set blip, Serena had very little trouble getting past 18-year-old Anastasia Potapova of Russia 6-0, 6-3 to begin her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam singles championship.

Serena took the last three games of the match, then declared with a laugh: "I started out well today. Ended well."

Her most recent major trophy came in Australia in 2017; that also had been her last title of any sort until this month, when she won a hard-court tuneup in Auckland, New Zealand.

Gauff beamed Monday while discussing a dance routine she did with Serena that went viral on social media.

There were laughs about her love of TikTok and her self-deprecating discussion of a propensity for procrastination when it comes to schoolwork.

She is, after all, still just a 15-year-old.

One with lofty goals, though.

"I mean, my mission is to be the greatest. That's my goal, to win as many Grand Slams as possible. But for today, my mission was to win," said Gauff, whose good



United States' Cori "Coco" Gauff makes a backhand return to compatriot Venus Williams during their first round singles match the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

friend and doubles partner, 18-year-old American qualifier Caty McNally, upset 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur of Australia 6-1, 6-4 at night.

Another past champion at Flushing Meadows, Sloane Stephens, bowed out, too, beaten by Zhang Shuai 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Earlier, Gauff and Venus Williams combined for far more unforced errors, 71, than winners, 42.

One key was that Williams ended up with 41 of those miscues, 11 more than Gauff.

Another was that Williams, long one of the most feared servers on tour, was outdone in that category by her opponent on this day. Not only did Gauff face only two break points, saving one, but she often came up with the goods at the most crucial moments, pounding an ace at 115 mph, say, or hitting a risky second serve at a high velocity to the perfect spot to draw a no-good return.

All the while, Gauff was not shy about celebrating the biggest of points with a

loud "Come on!" and a series of fist pumps.

Otherwise, she had her game face on, betraying little emotion, including when she walked out onto the court with earbuds in place after getting a pre-match peck on the cheek from her father, Corey, who also serves as Gauff's coach.

Gauff is ranked 67th, and Williams, a former No. 1, is 55th. Williams was playing in a Grand Slam tournament's main draw for the 85th time, a record for the professional era, but this also was her first match of 2020, because of a hip injury that sidelined her at the start of January.

This is Gauff's third major, but she sure is precocious.

"She clearly wants it and works very hard and is extremely mature for her age," Williams said. "The sky's the limit for her."

Ranked 313th, Gauff became the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history, then made it all the way to the fourth round, generating a ton of buzz, before losing to eventual cham-

pion Simona Halep. She backed that up with a run to the third round at the U.S. Open, then won her first WTA singles title later in the year.

The forehand that might have been the biggest question mark with her game after her breakthrough, seemed improved, yes, but still was a weakness Williams could test.

Another question entering this season had to be how Gauff would handle being someone everyone gears up for, someone everyone knows about, and someone who might need to deal with the pressure to perform and live up to the ever-growing and enormous expectations.

So far, so good.

"I guess I came to the realization that I need to play my game, not worry about what people think of me," Gauff said. "I still have a lot more to, I guess, become like one of those 'big names,'" she continued, making air quotes with her fingers. "I feel like I still have a lot to improve." □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herby direct at (297)-5924040.



Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster.

Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10.30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Continued from Page 17

Jeter was picked by all 201 voters tabulated through late afternoon Monday by Ryan Thibodaux's Hall of Fame vote tracker, nearly half the expected ballots. A 14-time All-Star shortstop who hit .310, Jeter led New York to five World Series titles and captained the Yankees for his final 11 1/2 seasons. New York retired No. 2 in his honor, but Jeter has struggled for success in his post-playing days as CEO of the of the Miami Marlins. Larry Walker, who hit 383 homers in a career boosted by nearly a decade of home games in the launching pad of Denver's Coors Field, was at 170 (84.6%). Curt Schilling, a three-time World Series champion for Arizona and Boston, was next at 158 (78.6%). While Walker and Schilling were thus far above the 75% threshold needed for election, percentages usually decline among the non-public ballots. Attitudes have changed since the initial Hall vote in

1936, when Ty Cobb was left off four ballots, Babe Ruth and Honus Wagner were omitted from 11, Christy Mathewson from 21 and Walter Johnson from 37. Joe DiMaggio received one vote as an active player in 1945, fell short in his first two ballot appearances after retirement and was elected in 1955, when 28 voters left him off. Yogi Berra was elected in his second appearance in 1972 after missing by 28 votes in his first try. Willie Mays was deemed unworthy by 23 voters when he was elected in 1979, and 52 bypassed Sandy Koufax when he was voted to the Hall in 1972. John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, called last year's election a precedent. "Mariano was the very best at what he did. Derek Jeter will not be the very best at what he did," Thorn said. "The meaningfulness of Mariano achieving unanimity just testifies to a herd mentality."



In this Sept. 25, 2014, file photo, New York Yankees' Derek Jeter jumps after hitting the game-winning single against the Baltimore Orioles in the ninth inning of a baseball game, in New York. Associated Press

Walker is on the BBWAA ballot for the 10th and final time after improving from 34.1% in 2018 to 54.6% last year. Schilling is making his eighth appearance after going up from 51.2% to 60.9%. He dropped from 52.3% in 2016 to 45% the following year and claimed his support dropped because he publicly supported the election of Donald Trump for president.

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, both tainted by accusations of steroids use, also are on for their eighth time. Each received just over one-third of the vote in his first appearances in 2013 and both were at about 59% last year. Bonds was at 72.6% on this year's vote-tracker and Clemens at 71.6%. Manny Ramírez, suspended twice under Major League Baseball's drug program,

was at 31.8% on the vote-tracker. Sammy Sosa, another steroids-tainted star, was at 16.9%. Bonds and Clemens could benefit next year, when the most prominent players eligible for the first time are Torii Hunter and Mark Buehrle. The 2022 ballot will include David Ortiz and Alex Rodriguez, who served a season-long suspension in 2014 for violations of the drug program and baseball's collective bargaining agreement. Joining the ballot in 2023 is newly tainted Carlos Beltrán, who quit as New York Mets manager last week after he was implicated in using electronics to steal signs with Houston in 2017, his final season as a player. Players elected by the BBWAA will be inducted on July 26 at the Hall in Cooperstown, New York, along with catcher Ted Simmons and former players' association head Marvin Miller, who were voted in last month by the Hall's Modern Era Committee. □

Aaron Rodgers says 'window's open' on another title run

By **KEITH JENKINS**
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The 2019 season for the Green Bay Packers marked the dawn of a new era.

Matt LaFleur took over and won more games than any first-year coach in franchise history.

The final result again fell short of the Packers' goal of winning it all, but this time it had a different feeling, according to Aaron Rodgers. The two-time MVP was on the losing end of the NFC championship game in his third consecutive appearance.

There was the overtime loss at Seattle in the title game in the 2014 season, the 23-point rout at Atlanta in the conference championship in the 2016 season and Sunday's 37-20 defeat to the Super Bowl-bound 49ers.

But the 36-year-old Rodgers said the latest loss isn't like the others.

"It's a lot different feel," he said Sunday night. "I remember in those moments the emotion compared to this. I feel really confident in (general manager) Brian (Gutkunst) and the job that he's done and his staff. They did go all-in — as much as they could — this year and the pieces that they brought in. I'm confident that he's going to continue to add to this squad. So, that part is very exciting. It is a lot different feel than three years ago." Gutkunst spent big on the

defense in free agency last March. The second-year general manager acquired pass rushers Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith and veteran safety Adrian Amos. The Packers also used both of their 2019 first-round picks on defenders (outside linebacker Rashan Gary at No. 12 and safety Darnell Savage at No. 21).

Both Smiths invigorated the defense and revitalized themselves, as each had a career high in sacks (Za'Darius, 13 1/2; Preston, 12)

But after being a large reason why Green Bay was 13-3 this season, swept its division and finished as the No. 2 seed in the NFC, that same re-tooled unit was largely to blame for Sunday's loss because of its inability to stop the run.

The Packers' leaky run defense, which was in the bottom third of the league for most of the season, allowed 220 yards and four touchdowns to Raheem Mostert, a running back who had been cut seven times in his career.

NEW OFFENSE

LaFleur brought with him an entirely new offense that showed flashes of brilliance but struggled to find consistency all season. However, it did uncover a gem in Aaron Jones, who had the most productive season of his young career.

The third-year running back had career highs in carries (236), rushing yards (1,084) and total touchdowns (19).



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers leaves the field after their loss against the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL NFC Championship football game Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

Jones also had 49 catches, second on the team behind only Davante Adams' 83, and was Green Bay's first 1,000-yard rusher since Eddie Lacy in 2014.

But outside of Jones and Adams, there wasn't much offensive production, which begs the question: After reshaping the defense last offseason, will Gutkunst have to spend this offseason finding a dynamic playmaker or two to add to LaFleur's offense?

"The scheme is there. The scheme and what Matt and his staff put together every week was fantastic," Rodgers said.

"The execution and the

moving pieces will continue to improve. Like I said, the window's open and I think we're going to be on the right side of one of these real soon."

Green Bay has the 30th pick in this year's draft.

PLENTY OF QUESTIONS

The Packers have a number of unrestricted free agents they will have to make difficult decisions regarding, including defensive back Tramon Williams and veteran right tackle Bryan Bulaga, who has protected Rodgers' right side since 2010.

"This is my last year and we'll see what happens," Bulaga said. "I don't have any pre-

dictions or anything like that. I don't know what's going to happen. So, we'll see."

Balaga, 30, and Williams, 36, are two of only four players remaining from Green Bay's Super Bowl-winning team in the 2010 season.

Other notable unrestricted free agents include outside linebacker Kyler Fackrell (10 1/2 sacks in 2018), inside linebacker Blake Martinez (team-high 155 tackles in 2019, second in the NFL behind Bobby Wagner's 159), wide receiver Geronimo Allison, 35-year-old tight end Mercedes Lewis and 35-year-old kicker Mason Crosby. □

Super Bowl a tossup at legal sports books

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Even the bookies are having a problem figuring out a favorite in the Super Bowl.

Odds opened at pick 'em Sunday at many Las Vegas sports books, though the Kansas City Chiefs quickly moved to 1-point favorites over the San Francisco 49ers. Early bettors favored the Chiefs in a game that will almost surely set new legal betting records. The combination of an attrac-

tive matchup, close odds and the spread of legalized sports betting means hundreds of millions of dollars will exchange hands over the next two weeks.

Bettors at the Westgate Las Vegas Superbook got an early start after they were offered the pick 'em odds at halftime of the NFC championship game. Oddsmaker Jay Kornegay said about 80 percent of the early money was on the Chiefs and the line moved to Chiefs minus-1.

The over/under total started at 51 1/2 and was at 53 after a bettor put \$110,000 on the over.

Odds and point spreads can fluctuate up until the kickoff Feb. 2 in Miami, largely because of heavy bets on one side or the other.

At the new Circa sports books, the game was pick 'em with a 52 total to open. Sports book director Matthew Metcalf tweeted that bettors could bet up to \$100,000 a side on Sunday

with limits of \$500,000 a side beginning Tuesday morning.

Most books limit bets early to see if the point spread moves while being tested by so-called sharps.

Legal betting in Nevada's 200 sports books was down last year at \$145.9 million after setting a record the year before with \$158.6 million in bets.

A big percentage of Super Bowl betting is in so-called prop bets, which have become increasingly popular

as they multiplied in recent years.

Books will begin releasing hundreds of different prop bets during the week, from who will win the opening coin flip to how many penalties each team will have. Kornegay said he expects a new record to be set in Nevada on the game, largely driven by a good economy. Bets are now legal in 13 other states, too, though not in the home states of either team or in Florida. □

Beckham's MLS team in Miami takes field for first time

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

MIAMI SHORES, Fla. (AP) — David Beckham's new soccer team finally got to play soccer.

After more than six years of planning — and a process that was at times brutally difficult — Inter Miami took the field for the first time Monday. The expansion MLS club's inaugural training camp opened at Barry University, with about two dozen players on the field. "It's real," said Paul McDonough, Inter Miami's sporting director. "Every day we do something, every milestone we hit, everything becomes more real." Beckham wasn't at the workout and is not expected in town for a few more weeks. McDonough has been with the club for the last year and a half or so and is still working on a final roster, with about a half-dozen more signings expected in the coming

weeks. He watched much of the session from a far corner. Coach Diego Alonso, who will be introduced Wednesday, bounced from group to group, barking instructions.

McDonough was up at 2 a.m., eight hours before the first training session, with all sorts of thoughts going through his mind — construction that still needs to be finished and deals that still need to be signed among them.

To say he was a bit anxious may have been an understatement.

"One of the things about being in Miami is the fans do have very high expectations," McDonough said. "The fans are very educated here so they're going to hold us to a very high standard, which I think is OK. We want that type of pressure." Inter Miami's players gathered for the first time as a group over the weekend,



Head coach Diego Alonso, center, speaks to his players during the first training session for David Beckham's Inter Miami MLS soccer team, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, in Miami Shores, Fla.

Associated Press

sharing a team dinner on Saturday night. Alonso, who is not yet comfortable speaking English, addressed the team at that dinner and set the tone for training camp.

In any language, his message got through.

"His introduction, I thought, was incredible," said goalkeeper Luis Robles, the MLS goalie of the year for

the 2015 season and who spent the last eight seasons with the New York Red Bulls. "After he spoke, I was ready to go train. Except it was 8 o'clock at night, so I'm glad we didn't train."

Beckham was in Miami looking at potential stadium sites on June 1, 2013 — 2,424 days before his team would hold its first practice. The AP reported that Beck-

ham had officially picked Miami on Oct. 29, 2013. Beckham himself came to town to announce that very decision on Feb. 5, 2014.

"Today," Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez said that day, "professional soccer is a reality in Miami."

"Today" was a relative term. Practice wouldn't happen for another six years. □

Kane gets 1,000th point, Blackhawks beat Jets 5-2

CHICAGO (AP) — Patrick Kane reached 1,000 career points when he picked up an assist on Brandon Saad's third-period goal, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Winnipeg Jets 5-2 on Sunday night for their season-high fifth straight win.

Kane became the 90th player in NHL history to reach the milestone with 5:46 left. The All-Star winger passed from behind the net to Ryan Carpenter in the right circle. Carpenter then fed a wide-open Saad at the left side of the net for an easy tap-in before goalie Connor Hellebuyck could slide across the crease.

The 31-year-old Kane got an extended ovation from the crowd of 21,487 and was mobbed by teammates after extending his point streak to 10 games. Saad made sure to pick up the puck before joining the celebration.

Alex Nylander and Erik Gus-

tafsson each had a goal and an assist for Chicago, which has climbed back into the Western Conference playoff race with an 11-4-0 run. David Kampf also scored and rookie Dominik Kubalik added an empty-netter for his 10th goal in his last seven games.

Mark Scheifele and Patrik Laine scored for Winnipeg. Hellebuyck stopped 28 shots in the Jets' fourth loss in five games.

HURRICANES 2, ISLANDERS 1, SO

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Justin Williams returned to the lineup for the first time since last year's Eastern Conference final and scored in the shootout to lift Carolina over New York.

James Reimer stopped six shots in the tiebreaker for Carolina, the last against Anders Lee to lock up the win. Andrei Svechnikov and Teuvo Teravainen also



Chicago Blackhawks right wing Patrick Kane (88) acknowledges the fans after an NHL hockey game where he scored his 1,000th point on an assist against the Winnipeg Jets Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Chicago.

Associated Press

scored in the shootout for the Hurricanes. Svechnikov had a goal in the first period.

The Hurricanes ended a three-game skid thanks to Williams, the 38-year-old who took an extended break after last season. He scored in the eighth round of the shootout.

Lee scored in regulation, and Mathew Barzal and Anthony Beauvillier connected in the shootout for New York, but the Islanders lost their third straight.

BLUE JACKETS 2, RANGERS 1, SO

NEW YORK (AP) — Oliver Bjorkstrand scored his second goal of the game with

26.5 seconds left to lift Columbus over New York for its fifth straight win.

Columbus rookie Matiss Kivlenieks made his first NHL start and stopped 31 shots. The surging Blue Jackets are 15-2-4 since Dec. 9. They are also 8-1-3 in their last 12 road games.

Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei opened the scoring at 18:28 of the first period.

PENGUINS 4, BRUINS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jack Johnson and Bryan Rust scored third-period goals as Pittsburgh rallied to defeat Boston.

Pittsburgh trailed 3-0 in the first period before scoring four unanswered goals. Dominik Simon and Teddy Blueger also scored, and Matt Murray rebounded from a shaky start to make 34 saves.

David Pastrnak scored his 37th goal, Patrice Bergeron scored his 21st and Anders Bjork his eighth for Boston. □

Protests or not, politics and Olympics are intertwined

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

More than a half-century later, Tommie Smith and John Carlos are cemented into Olympic lore — their names enshrined in the Olympic Hall of Fame in the United States, their portrait an indelible fixture on the universal sports landscape. As for that raised-fist salute that transformed them into Olympic icons, while also symbolizing the power athletes possess for the short time they're on their biggest stage — it's still forbidden.

Such was the warning this month in the announcement by the IOC, whose athletes' commission banned kneeling and hand gestures during medals ceremonies and competition. It's all part of an attempt to tamp down political demonstrations at this summer's Tokyo Games.

"The eyes of the world will be on the athletes and the Olympic Games," IOC President Thomas Bach said, in delivering an impassioned defense of the rules.

IOC athlete's rep Kirsty Coventry portrayed the guidance as a way to provide some clarity on an issue that has confounded both athletes and authorities for decades.

The issue, always bubbling, surfaced last year when two U.S. athletes — Gwen Berry and Race Imboden — used medal ceremonies to make political statements at the Pan American Games. Those gestures brought a strong rebuke from the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic committees, but the groups still appear confused and conflicted about the entire matter. (The USOPC didn't welcome Smith and Carlos to an officially sanctioned event until 2016.)

The IOC got its athletes' commission, which has often contradicted key athlete movements in other Olympic areas, to get out front on the issue and offer its advice. It was essentially no different from what the IOC itself has been touting for years. Not surprisingly, some view it as an out-of-



In this July 7, 2019 file photo, United States' Megan Rapinoe celebrates after scoring the opening goal from the penalty spot during the Women's World Cup final soccer match between US and The Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France.

Associated Press

touch, retrograde attempt to stifle an increasingly outspoken generation of athletes.

The mushrooming of live TV, to say nothing of the outlets now available on social media, has empowered athletes — the best examples from recent years would be Colin Kaepernick and Megan Rapinoe, but there are dozens more — to use sports to send a message.

Rapinoe's reaction to the IOC announcement: "We will not be silenced." As much as her play, Rapinoe's outspoken fight for equal pay for the U.S. women's soccer team underscored the American victory in the World Cup last year and made her, in the minds of many, the most influential athlete of 2019.

"So much for being done about the protests," Rapinoe wrote on Instagram last weekend. "So little being done about what we are protesting about."

The athletes' commission said disciplinary action would be taken "on a case-by-case basis as necessary" and listed the IOC, the sports federations and the athletes' national governing bodies as those who will have authority to make the call. It made no mention of what the sanctions could be. In that respect, it added confusion, and might have served to em-

phasize the power disparity between the athletes, who are the show, and the agencies who run this multibillion-dollar enterprise and, for all intents and purposes, control the invitation list.

Among the other questions not answered in the guidance document:

Who, exactly, will adjudicate the individual cases and how will cases be adjudicated?

Who, exactly, will have ultimate responsibility for implementing sanctions?

While those questions went unanswered, the document did include the reminder that "it is a fundamental principle that sport is neutral and must be separate from political, religious or any other type of interference."

That concept, however, runs counter to long thread of Olympics-as-politics storylines that have dominated the movement since it was founded in 1896.

A truncated list includes:

—Hitler's hosting of the 1936 Games (winter and summer) in Nazi Germany.

—IOC President Avery Brundage's ham-handed handling of South Africa's status in the Olympics during apartheid.

—The 1972 massacre of Israeli athletes during the Munich Games.

—The U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, followed by the Soviet Union's boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

—The IOC's awarding of the 2008 Olympics to Beijing, in part compelled by promises to shine a light on the country's attempt to improve human rights.

More recently, Bach has found the committee a permanent place at the United Nations, used the Pyeongchang Games in South Korea to strive for better relations between the Koreas and spent ample time negotiating deals with leaders who have been kind enough to spend billions to stage the Olympics. Though the IOC would argue that there are still places to make political statements in the Olympic space — news conferences and social media

among them — it does not condone them on the field of play or the medals stand. It made all the more striking the picture the IOC tweeted out last Monday: Bach posing on a mountain with athletes in uniform from the United States and Iran at the Youth Olympic Games — a political statement during a time of strife that is designed to forward the long-held IOC-driven credo that the Olympics promote peace.

Peace itself is dependent on politics, and the people who run the Olympics are well connected to that world.

No fewer than nine members of IOC itself are princes, princesses, dukes or sheiks — and that list doesn't include the multitude of government officials involved in organizations that branch out of the IOC. For instance, half the World Anti-Doping Agency's board comes from governments across the globe.

Bach has singled out political concerns as a major divider in the Russian doping scandal that has embroiled the Olympics the past five years — implying it's as much an East vs. West issue as one based on decisions that stem from painstakingly accumulated evidence. The latest move comes in the run-up to what figures to be a divisive election year in the United States, the country that sends the largest contingent to the Olympics, wins the most medals and often lands some of the most outspoken athletes on the podium. Smith and Carlos were booted from Mexico City after their protest. If history — to say nothing of Rapinoe's reaction — is any guide, the IOC could be placed in the position to decide whether to make that same sort of statement again. □





Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers a policy speech in Tokyo, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020. Associated Press

Abe says new unit will defend Japan from space tech threats

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday that Japan will form a space defense unit to protect itself from potential threats as rivals develop missiles and other technology and the new unit will work closely with its American counterpart recently launched by President Donald Trump.

The Space Domain Mission Unit will start in April as part of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force, Abe said in a policy speech marking the start of the year's parliamentary session.

He said Japan must also defend itself from threats in cyberspace and from electromagnetic interference against Japanese satellites. Concerns are growing that China and Russia are seeking ways to interfere, disable or destroy satellites. "We will drastically bolster capability and system in order to secure superiority" in those areas, Abe said.

The space unit will be added to an existing air base at Fuchu in the western suburbs of Tokyo, where about 20 people will be staffed ahead of a full launch in 2022. The role of the space unit is to conduct satellite-based navigation and communications for other troops in the field, rather

than being on the ground. Abe's Cabinet in December approved 50.6 billion yen (\$460 million) budget in space-related projects, pending parliamentary approval.

The unit will cooperate with the U.S. Space Command that Trump established in August, as well as Japan's space exploration agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Underscoring the need to step up cyber security, Mitsubishi Electric Corp. revealed Monday that it had suffered a cyber attack last June that may have compromised personal and corporate data involving thousands of its job applicants, employees and retirees. Mitsubishi said there was no breach of sensitive data in the company's operations involving defense, space, transportation, electric power and other businesses sectors. It promised to enhance security measures and monitoring.

Abe has pushed for Japan's Self-Defense Force to expand its international role and capability by bolstering cooperation and weapons compatibility with the U.S., as it increasingly works alongside American troops and as it grows concerned about the increasing capabilities of China

and North Korea.

Abe, in marking Sunday's 60th anniversary of the signing of Japan-U.S. security treaty, vowed to bolster Japan's capability and cooperation with the U.S., including in the areas of space and cyber security. He said he is determined to settle Japan's "unfortunate past" with North Korea, as he hopes to "sum up" his country's postwar legacies before his term expires next year.

He reiterated his intention to hold talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un without the conditions he had demanded in the past — denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and resolving the decades-old issue of abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korea.

Part of Abe's plan while in office is to achieve his long-cherished goal of revising Japan's U.S.-drafted constitution that prohibits use of force in settling international disputes. Despite Abe's push, chances are fading for the revision due to a lack of public interest and the opposition's focus on other controversial issues such as Japan's recent dispatch of naval troops to Middle East and questionable public record-keeping at Abe's annual cherry blossom-viewing parties. □



Google's chief executive Sundar Pichai addresses the audience during an event on artificial intelligence at the Square in Brussels, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

Google CEO calls for regulation of artificial intelligence

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Google's chief executive called Monday for a balanced approach to regulating artificial intelligence, telling a European audience that the technology brings benefits but also "negative consequences."

Sundar Pichai's comments come as lawmakers and governments seriously consider putting limits on how artificial intelligence is used.

"There is no question in my mind that artificial intelligence needs to be regulated.

The question is how best to approach this," Pichai said, according to a transcript of his speech at a Brussels-based think tank.

He noted that there's an important role for governments to play and that as the European Union and the U.S. start drawing up their own approaches to regulation, "international alignment" of any eventual rules will be critical. He did not provide specific proposals.

Pichai spoke on the same day he was scheduled to meet the EU's powerful competition regulator, Margrethe Vestager. She's also due to meet Microsoft President Brad Smith separately on Monday. Vestager has in previous years hit the Silicon Valley

giant with multibillion-dollar fines for allegedly abusing its market dominance to choke off competition. After being reappointed for a second term last autumn with expanded powers over digital technology policies, Vestager has now set her sights on artificial intelligence, and is drawing up rules on its ethical use.

Pichai's comments suggest the company may be hoping to head off a broad-based crackdown by the EU on the technology. Vestager and the EU have been among the more aggressive regulators of big tech firms, an approach U.S. authorities have picked up with investigations into the dominance of companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon.

"Sensible regulation must also take a proportionate approach, balancing potential harms with social opportunities," he said, adding that it could incorporate existing standards like Europe's tough General Data Protection Regulation rather than starting from scratch.

While it promises big benefits, he raised concerns about potential downsides of artificial intelligence, citing as one example its role in facial recognition technology, which can be used to find missing people but also for "nefarious reasons" which he didn't specify. □

Startups see a market in renting couches by the month

NEW YORK (AP) — Zachariah Mohammed's living room is filled with stuff he doesn't own.

He pays \$200 a month for the sofa, side table, bar cart, dining table and four chairs in his living room. It's worth it, the 27-year-old New Yorker says. If he needs to move, which he's done twice in the last 12 months, he won't need to lug a sofa across the city or worry if it will fit in a new place. The furniture-rental startup, Feather, will swap out items for something else.

"We don't want to be stuck with a giant couch," says Mohammed, a social media manager at a software company, who lives with his partner and their dog, Remy.

Feather, Fernish and other companies aim to rent furniture to millennials who don't want to commit to big purchases or move heavy furniture and are willing to pay for the convenience. It's part of a wave of rental culture that includes Rent the Runway, focused on

women's designer clothing, and even Netflix and Spotify, which let you stream from a huge catalog rather than buy individual TV show episodes, movies or songs.

"They're moving a lot. They're changing jobs a lot," says Thomas Robertson, a marketing professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, describing the types of people who would use the services. "Why would you want to be saddled with furniture?"

The furniture-rental companies target high-income city dwellers who want a \$1,100 orange love seat (\$46 a month) or \$980 leather bench (\$41 a month) — but only temporarily. The furniture itself is a step up from Ikea.

"I'm 32 years old and have lived in 25 different places, five different countries, 12 different cities," says Chan Park, who co-founded online furniture rental company Oliver Space last year. He constantly bought and discarded cheap furniture.



In this Monday, Nov. 25, 2019 photo, Zachariah Mohammed, left, Pete Mancilla, and their dog Remy pose for a picture in their apartment in New York.

Associated Press

Then he moved to a furnished rental apartment in Singapore.

"It was probably the first time my adult life that I felt like I was truly at home," Park says.

These startups are in just a handful of coastal cities, with few users, but seek to

grow. They offer furniture from Crate & Barrel, West Elm and smaller brands.

Others are renting out home goods, too. Rent the Runway recently added West Elm pillows and quilts. Ikea is testing a rental service in several countries outside the U.S., including

Switzerland and Belgium.

Renting may make sense for a generation that sees "life as transient," says Hana Ben-Shabat, the founder of Gen Z Planet, a research and advisory firm that focuses on the generation born between the late 1990s and 2016. □

IMF: Low rates and reduced trade tension to aid world growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Low interest rates and reduced trade tensions will likely buoy the global economy over the next two years and help nurture steady if modest growth.

That's the view of the International Monetary Fund, which foresees world economic growth accelerating from 2.9% last year to 3.3% in 2020 and 3.4% in 2021. The international economy is receiving a significant boost - 0.5 percentage point of growth last year and this year - from central banks' low-rate policies, the lending organization says in a global outlook report out Monday. The U.S. Federal Reserve, for instance, cut rates three times last year and expects to keep rates low for the foreseeable future. And an interim trade deal signed last week by the United States and China — the world's two biggest economies — is expected to add 0.2 percentage point to

global growth this year by lowering tariffs and improving business confidence. The global economy is rebounding from some temporary stumbles, including a lull in the launch of new technology products and new emissions standards

to face an array of risks, including the possibility that trade tensions will escalate again. And many countries aren't benefiting from the modest upswing in growth. Presenting the report at a news conference in Davos, Switzerland, IMF chief

growth this year and next." "We already see some tentative signs of stabilization," she said. "But we have not reached a turning point yet."

Even in the United States, the IMF foresees growth slowing from 2.3% in 2019 to 2% this year and 1.7% in

2021, partly because the boost that the economy received from President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts has been fading.

China's economy will also continue to decelerate, the IMF predicts — from 6.1% last year to 6% in 2020 and 5.8% next year. □



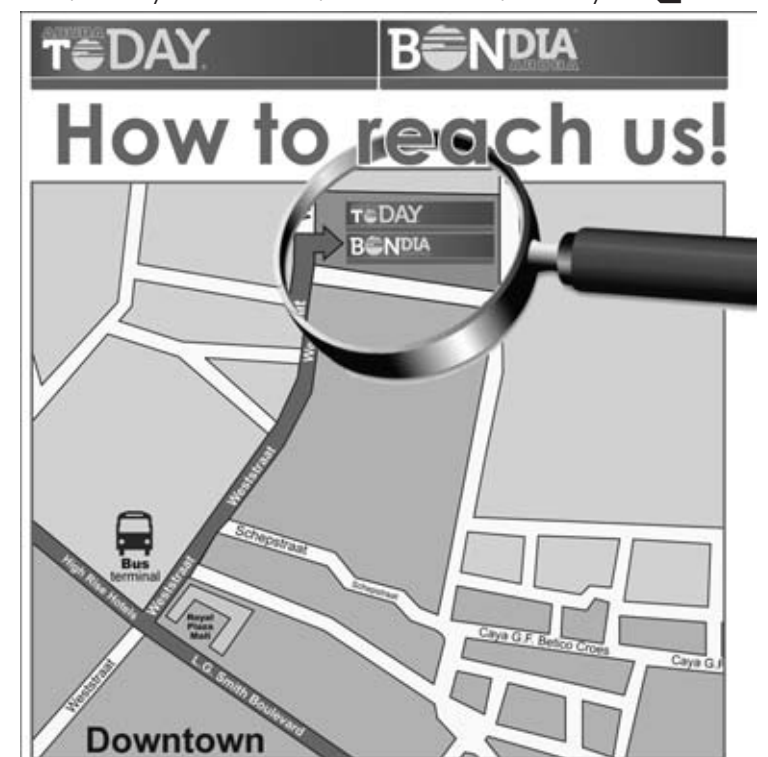
An employee works in a chemical fiber plant in Nantong in eastern China's Jiangsu Province, Friday, Jan. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

that disrupted car production.

Still, the IMF warns that the global economy continues

Kristalina Georgieva said that after a slowdown in 2019 there should be "a moderate pickup in global



Mutts



1-21

Why Does BREAKFAST
tATsE SooOOOO
MUCH BETTER at
4 o'CLOCK in The Morning?

mutts.com

www.a26.com

Art by Bob Eckstein. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

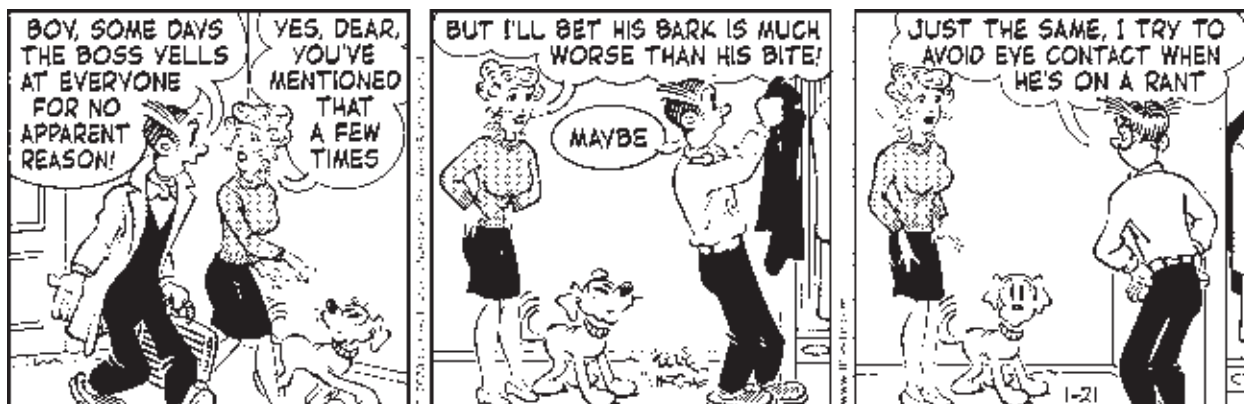
6 Chix

(c)2020 Martha Gradisher Six Chix (c) 2020 King Features Syndicate

BLACK FRIDAY SALES



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		8		9				
	2							
6	3			7	1		5	8
3							9	4
	7			3			6	
6	1							7
	2		4	5			8	7
	4						1	
		3			7			

Difficulty Level ★★

1/21

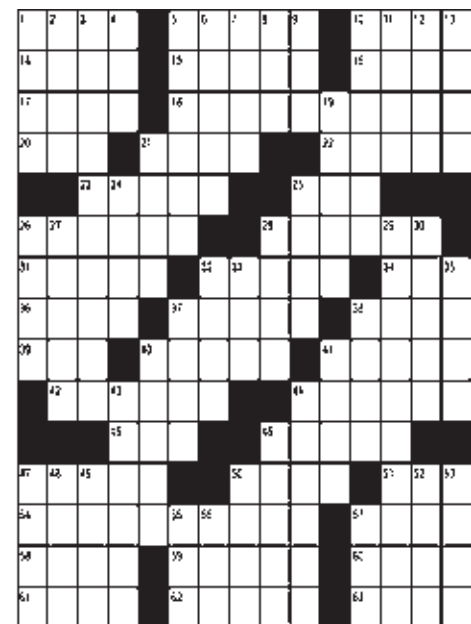
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	4	9	7	5	2	6	1	8
1	8	6	4	3	9	2	7	5
7	5	2	6	8	1	3	9	4
6	3	7	5	2	8	9	4	1
5	2	1	9	4	3	7	8	6
4	9	8	1	6	7	5	3	2
9	6	5	3	1	4	8	2	7
8	1	3	2	7	6	4	5	9
2	7	4	8	9	5	1	6	3

ACROSS

- 1 Be out in thought
- 5 Sticker
- 10 Unconscious state
- 14 Aggravates
- 15 Sidestep
- 16 Felonious about
- 17 Middle historical period
- 18 Frassed
- 20 Matching pair
- 21 Du lecturer
- 22 Plus n danger
- 23 Thorax
- 25 Pub prosecutors
- 26 Goo's shape
- 28 Tendons
- 31 Planet's path
- 32 Tradition: Sioux name
- 34 So state
- 36 Word attached to belt or knob
- 37 Stoopie
- 38 Cook-Pot meal, perhaps
- 39 Pusle & pusle
- 40 Creole lier
- 41 Kinder
- 42 Co's ol yam
- 44 Powerful
- 45 Jet 'ave' noe
- 48 1 of the 5 senses
- 47 Vary times
- 50 Word attached to eye or whip
- 51 TV's 'The Couple'
- 54 Live a chix growing up too fast
- 57 Out of town
- 58 Kravatoa of Java 1969 film
- 59 Right 90-degree 'gure
- 60 up, become cheerly again
- 61 Pecans & pistachios
- 62 Goes on and on
- 63 Acaba or alcer



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/21/20

Monday's Puzzle Solved

FLEE	ILLS	SCAT
LANDS	LOOP	NUDE
ANGST	ISLAMABAD	
BEA	AAA	REPAYS
	GRIND	RAP
DREARY	POLYP	
RAMPS	CLAWS	ELM
ICET	MAIDS	BRIE
PEN	FILES	SAFES
STALLS	HONORS	
LEI	DINER	
TABLET	UPA	ASA
EQUITABLE	TATER	
LURE	NAIL	AGENT
LAYS	TAOS	ODDS

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved

1/21/20

DOWN

- 1 Farrow & Harn
- 2 Exhort
- 3 Drawing table
- 4 Fern in the suffix
- 5 Oust from the throne
- 6 Chris of tennis
- 7 I couldn't less
- 8 Promos
- 9 Marvin or Majors
- 10 Vacation at sea
- 11 Time-out game pauses
- 12 Blessed are the
- 13 Finds a sum
- 19 Lifting machine
- 21 Ernie's buddy
- 24 One listed in a w
- 25 Breathed one's last
- 26 Scotch & mixed drink
- 27 E hews
- 28 Full of pep
- 29 Lookout post
- 30 Wicked weather sign
- 32 Tricycle riders
- 33 Please Don't the Daises'
- 35 Twisted askew
- 37 Like some juries
- 38 Exhale audibly
- 40 Keyboard instrument
- 41 Near, to a poet
- 43 Chooses for suc's office
- 44 Unnamed women
- 45 Ste Marie
- 47 Out in the exposed
- 48 Hamburg wife
- 49 SAT for one
- 50 Cabin va pieces
- 52 Snow do dress
- 53 Actor Dick Van
- 55 Baseball's Ripken Jr.
- 56 Fast instantly
- 57 Tenebrous; dog, uril

Classifieds


DOCTOR ON DUTY
Oranjestad

 Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
 Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

 IMSAN 24 Hours
 Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

 Oranjestad:
 Eagle Tel. 587 9011
 San Nicolas:
 Centro Medico Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

 Dental Clinic 587 9850
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
 Urgent Care 586 0448
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
 +297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES

 January 21
 Celebrity Summit
 January 22
 Monarch
 Amera

AID FOUNDATIONS

 FAVI- Visually Impaired
 Tel. 582 5051

 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Tel. 736 2952

 Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel. 583 8989

 Women in Difficulties
 Tel. 583 5400

 Centre for Diabetes
 Tel. 524 8888

 Child Abuse Prevention
 Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

**Sun Caribbean Realty
Your Real Estate Broker**

 www.suncaribbeanrealty.com
 info@suncaribbeanrealty.com
 call/whatsapp (+297)593-8082

PARADISE BEACH VILLA

 2 BR Week 5 RM 102
 garden view contact RM 102
 wk 2 thru 5 Phone USA
 1-508 883 9170

E-mail: linrog75@verizon.net

FOR SALE BY OWNER
weeks 2,3 & 4 Eagle

 Aruba, newly renovated
 one bedroom (7 K each)
 contact:
 janellemickelson@gmail.com

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

 Week 1/Unit 1408 (15k);
 Week 2/1113 (\$16k);
 Weeks 5&6/1315 (\$18k/Wk.);
 5&6/1521 (\$20k/Wk.);
 Week 7/1308; 7&8/1408
 (\$18k/Wk.);
 Week 8/1113; 8/1409
 (\$17k/Wk.);
 Weeks 9-15 also available!
 CDMOwner@gmail.com
 U.S. (860)992-3890

ASSOCIATED REALTORS
For Sale Investment

 House at Pos Abao/ Noord with
 4 apartments, being used now
 for short term rentals and for
 \$475.000.00
 Call Mito at 593 6318

ASSOCIATED REALTORS
For Sale / Investment

 Two large 2 bedrooms/ 1
 bathroom apartments at Bubali/
 Noord, one fully furnished, ideal
 for short term rentals and for
 \$298,000.00
 Contact Mito at 593 6318

ASSOCIATED REALTORS
For Sale

 Gorgeous two story house on a
 hill with ocean/country view in
 Paradera, 3 bedrooms/
 3 bathrooms with pool for
 \$470,000
 Call Mito at 593 6318
 for more details


facebook.com/arubatoday/

Halley Time Travel
For Rent
Marriott Ocean Club

 1 BR Ocean View Platinum
 Price : \$2.8 K each
 Date : 03/22 to 03/29/2020
 Date : 03/20 to 03/27/2020
 Date : 02/21 to 02/27/2020
 Date : 01/17 to 02/22/2021

Marriott Surf Club

 2 BR Ocean Side Platinum
 Date : 03/6 to 03/13/ 2020
 \$4 K

Divi Links Golf

 Studio wk 7 \$1,5 K
 sleep 4 date ;02/15 to 02/22/
 2020

For Sale
Marriott Ocean Club

 Platinum
 1 BR Ocean View \$ 9 K
 1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K
 2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
 2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K

Marriott Surf Club

 Platinum
 2 BR Ocean View \$ 16 K
 2 BR Ocean Side \$ 17 K
 2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K
 3 BR Ocean View \$ 26 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

 1 BR WK 2
 building 8 Ground floor
 32 weeks remain \$17 K
 1 BR WK 8 \$15 K
 building 6 on the 4th floor
 27 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

 1 BR PH WK 8/9 \$20 K both
 14th floor 32/22 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 11
 building 7 on the 3th floor
 33 weeks remain \$15 K

Divi Links Golf

 1 BR wk 1/2/3
 Birdie 2 on the 3rd floor
 25 weeks remain on each
 All 3 weeks together 30 K each

Divi Links Golf

 Studio WK 2 \$7.5 K
 eagle 3 with 32 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 3 \$8.5 K
 eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain
 Studio wk 5 ,7 and 8 \$8 K each
 Birdie 4 with 28/27/29 weeks
 remain

Divi Links Golf

 2 BR WK 3 \$ 20 K
 Eagle 8 with 25 weeks remain
 2 BR wk 3 Lock out \$20 K
 Birdie 9 26 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf \$8 K

 1 Br Wk 4 Birdie 1
 19 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 6 Birdie 1 \$8 K

Divi Village

 1 BR WK 52/01 \$20 K both
 weeks
 3rd floor and 2nd floor
 C -Building 24 /19 weeks remain
 Studio WK 1 \$7.5 K
 Ground Floor 33 weeks remain

Divi Village

 1 BR WK 1 \$8.5 K
 Studio wk 1 \$7.5 K
 building D& F 25 weeks remain
 each

Divi Links Golf

 Studio wk 1 \$7.5 K
 building 4 with 28 weeks remain

Paradise Beach Villas

 1 BR WK 1 & 2 \$20 K both
 weeks
 2sd floor poo/ocean view

Divi Links Golf

 1 BR wk 8 & 9 \$9.5 K each
 eagle 9 with 27/19 weeks
 remain

Renaissance Suites

 1 BR WK 9 \$9 K
 3rd floor pool/ocean view
 1 BR WK 9 \$9 K
 3 th floor harbor view
 1 BR WK 10 & 11 \$8.5 K each
 5th floor garden view

Eagle Resorts

 1 BR WK 2 \$8 K
 1 BR WK 5,6,7,8
 Ground floor \$8 K each
 1 BR WK 7/8/9 \$8 K each

Caribbean Palm Village

 1 BR WK 2 6 K
 1 BR /2 BR wk 3 \$ 7 K
 1 BR WK 3/4 \$6 K each
 2 BR WK 5/6 \$7 K each

House For Sale

 Ponton \$370 K
 4 BR 3 Bath Pool
 Tibushie Noord \$300 K
 2 Bath ,2 bath Pool
Tierra Del sol
 3 BR 2 Bath \$ 520 K

Le Vent Condo

 3 BR , 2 Bath \$ 650 K
 Property Land Tibushie Noord
 4208 sq feet \$100 K
 Property Land Commercial
 Barcadera 145.300 sq feet
 \$60 sq feet

Divi Village

 Studio wk 6 \$ 7.5 K
 building F with 21 weeks remain
 2 sd floor 18 weeks remain

Call: 630 1307

 Johnnypaesch@gmail.com
 facebookpage:resales&realty

Editor

 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
 Acc. #23951903
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

 Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

 Richard Brooks
 Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

 Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

 Juan Luis Pinto
 Pilar Flores

Columnists

 Anthony Croes
 Joris Zantvoort
 Shanella Pantophlet
 Steve Francees
 Thais Franken

 Weststraat 22
 T: 582-7800

 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
 @arubatoday


Scientists seek rare species survivors amid Australia flames

By **CHRISTINA LARSON** and **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

Australia's unprecedented wildfires season has so far charred 40,000 square miles (104,000 square kilometers) of brushland, rainforests, and national parks — killing by one estimate more than a billion wild animals. Scientists fear some of the island continent's unique and colorful species may not recover. For others, they are trying to throw lifelines.

Where flames have subsided, biologists are starting to look for survivors, hoping they may find enough left of some rare and endangered species to rebuild populations. It's a grim task for a nation that prides itself on its diverse wildlife, including creatures found nowhere else on the planet such as koalas, kangaroos and wallabies.

"I don't think we've seen a single event in Australia that has destroyed so much habitat and pushed so many creatures to the very brink of extinction," said Kingsley Dixon, an ecologist at Curtin University in Perth.

Not long after wildfires passed through Oxley Wild Rivers National Park in New South Wales, ecologist Guy Ballard set out looking for brush-tailed rock wallabies. The small marsupials resemble miniature kangaroos with long floppy tails and often bound between large boulders, their preferred hiding spots.

Before this fire season, scientists estimated there were as few as 15,000 left in the wild. Now recent fires in a region already stricken by drought have burned through some of their last habitat, and the species is in jeopardy of disappearing, Ballard said.



This early January 2020 photo provided by Dana Mitchell from the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park shows a rescued koala injured in a bushfire in Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Associated Press

In prior years, his team identified a handful of colonies within the national park. After the recent fires, they found smoking tree stumps and dead animals.

"It was just devastating," said Ballard from the University of New England in Armidale. "You could smell dead animals in the rocks." But some wallabies, his team discovered, were still alive. "All you can do is focus on the survivors," he said.

Australia's forests and wildlife evolved alongside periodic wildfires. What's different this year is the vast extent of land burned —

an area as big as Kentucky — against a backdrop of drought and searing temperatures attributed to climate change. Last year, among the driest in more than a century, saw temperatures that routinely topped 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius). Not all animals will perish in the blazes. Some can shelter in rock crevices or hide deep in underground burrows. Yet when survivors emerge into a fire-scorched wasteland, they will face hunger, thirst and non-native predators, including introduced foxes and feral cats.

Since fires swept through parts of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park nearly two months ago, there's been little rain and no green shoots.

So Ballard's team has trekked through the ash-covered forest carrying water and sacks of sweet potatoes, carrots and food pellets.

"There are so few left that, with a species this rare, every individual counts," he says.

Elsewhere in New South Wales, conservation workers are dropping vegetables from airplanes into scorched forests, hoping that wallabies and other species find a meal.

In the state of Victoria, authorities estimate that brush-tailed rock wallabies lost 40% of their habitat as did another rare marsupial, the long-footed potoroo, according to a preliminary damage assessment.

The full toll on Australia's wildlife includes at least 20 and possibly as many as 100 threatened species pushed closer to extinction, according to scientists from several Australian universities.

"The worry is that with so much lost, there won't be a pool of rare animals and plants to later repopulate burnt areas," said Jim Radford, an ecologist at La Trobe University in Melbourne.

The fires could knock out rainforest species dating back to the time of the Gondwana supercontinent, before the modern continents split apart, he said.

University of Sydney ecologist Christopher Dickman estimated that more than 1 billion animals have been killed so far. His calculations took previously-published animal density numbers for different vegetation types and multiplied that by acreage burned.

He says that number does not include bats, amphibians, insects or other invertebrates.

The wildlife toll includes tens of millions of possums and small marsupials known as gliders, which live in tree tops and can leap extraordinary distances by using a parachute-like membrane of skin between their ankles and wrists. State officials in Victoria predicted more than a 25% reduction in glider numbers from the fires.

"The implications for some species are pretty grim," Dickman said. "If we can't

protect them here, they're gone. No one else has them."

The Australian government announced Monday that it was spending \$50 million on emergency wildlife rescue efforts and habitat recovery.

Fires are still burning in the Blue Mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage site west of Sydney — one of the last strongholds of the regent honeyeater, an elegant black and yellow bird that has already lost 95% of its breeding habitat since European settlers arrived in Australia.

There are only 300 to 400 of the birds left in the wild, says Ross Crates, an ecologist at Australia National University. They are dependent on nectar from certain eucalyptus tree blossoms, but the dry weather has meant that many trees are producing no nectar.

After the wildfires subside, Crates plans to survey what's been newly scorched. "Even for birds that survive the fires, we are concerned about how they will feed and nest."

In recent months, areas that don't usually burn went up in flames. Some rainforests dried up in the drought and extreme heat, allowing fire to sweep through them. Few images have tugged at heartstrings more than koalas clinging to burnt trees. Unlike birds or ground mammals, they cannot fly away or burrow underground.

While koalas are not classified as vulnerable to extinction, their populations in some fire-ravaged areas may have been snuffed out. "We know there's been a massive reduction of their overall habitat, and we're not even at the end of fire season," said Mathew Crowther, an ecologist at the University of Sydney.

"Koalas won't go extinct in the next few years, but if their habitat is destroyed bit by bit, it could eventually be death by a thousand cuts. We have to look at long-term trends — what will the temperatures and wildfires be like in the future?" □



A journalist takes a closer look at the previously contested painting by Dutch master Vincent van Gogh, a 1889 self-portrait, of which the authenticity was confirmed during a press conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

Experts say Vincent van Gogh self-portrait is genuine

AMSTERDAM (AP) — After years of doubts about its authenticity, experts in Amsterdam have confirmed that a Vincent van Gogh self-portrait was indeed painted by the Dutch master as he recovered in a French asylum from a mental breakdown.

Van Gogh Museum researcher Louis van Tilborgh dispelled the doubts Monday, saying the oil-on-canvas painting of the anguished-looking painter was completed in the late summer of 1889 while Van Gogh was at the Saint-Remy asylum in southern France.

Questions about the painting rose in the 1970s. The use of a palette knife to flatten brush strokes on Van Gogh's face and what were then considered to be unusual colors in the painting led to speculation about the authenticity of the work, which was bought as a genuine Van Gogh in 1910 by Norway's National Museum.

In an attempt to put those doubts to rest, the museum asked the Van Gogh Museum to analyze the painting in 2014.

"It feels really reassuring to know that it's genuine," said Mai Britt Guleng of the Norwegian museum.

Van Tilborgh said the use of an unprimed canvas and a muddy green color were, in fact, typical of Van Gogh's time in Saint-Remy in 1889.

What sets the work apart is Van Gogh's use of a palette knife.

"So he has painted it and during the process he suddenly decides that it has to become flat," Van Tilborgh said. "We tend to think that it has to do with the fact that it's made during a period of psychosis."

Van Tilborgh said Van Gogh used painting as both a way of portraying his mental breakdown and of helping him to recover.

"He wanted to say in this picture that he was an ill person and so it's a kind of therapeutic work we tend to think," he said. "He was a Protestant and as a Protestant you have to accept the facts of life — if you suffer, you have to face the suffering."

Norway's most famous artistic son, painter Edvard Munch, whose iconic work, "The Scream," also is a vivid expression of mental anguish, was fascinated by the Van Gogh painting.

"He thought it was one of the best of the collection of the national gallery but he also found it scary, because of the gaze from the self-portrait staring back at him," Guleng said.

The painting will remain on display at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam before returning to Oslo in 2021, when the National Museum, currently closed for renovation, reopens in a new building. □

Critics free to criticize, say 'Morning Show' makers, stars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — When critics and subjects of their criticism meet there can be tense moments — especially when a new streaming service's high-profile project, "The Morning Show," is at issue.

That was the case when Mimi Leder, executive producer of the Apple TV Plus series, was queried about her comment last November that "Apple haters" were responsible for some of the show's negative reviews.

"Looking out at this sea of MacBooks, do you still think we're a bunch of Apple haters who want to see Apple fail?" a member of the Television Critics Association said to Leder during a Q&A promotional panel Sunday that included stars Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and Billy Crudup.

"No, I don't," replied Leder, a veteran, Emmy-winning director whose credits in-



Jennifer Aniston, left, and Reese Witherspoon speak at "The Morning Show," panel during the Apple+ TCA 2020 Winter Press Tour at the Langham Huntington, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

clude "The Leftovers" and "ER."

"I think we were a new show, I think people didn't know what to expect," Leder said. "There were a lot of expectations on the show, and I'm really glad and happy that people have responded to the show so powerfully, and kind of with great vigor."

When Leder, whose ini-

tial remarks about reviewers came during a media conference in Los Angeles, was asked by another critic about them, Witherspoon spoke up. She and Aniston also are executive producers on the series, which follows the upheaval at a network morning show after an anchor, played by Steve Carell, is fired for alleged sexual misconduct. □

Jazz composer and saxophone player Jimmy Heath dies at 93

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Heath, a Grammy-nominated jazz saxophonist and composer who performed with such greats as Miles Davis and John Coltrane before forming the popular family group the Heath Brothers in middle age, has died. He was 93.

Heath's grandson Fa Mtume told The New York Times that he died Sunday at his home in Loganville, Georgia. The cause of death was not immediately given.

Heath, a native of Philadelphia, had been playing jazz since the 1940s, in the early days of bebop. He was mentored by Dizzy Gillespie, idolized Charlie Parker, whose nickname was "Bird," and would become known as "Little Bird" for how well he emulated Parker's fluid

style. Heath overcame his battles with heroin addiction, which landed him in prison in the mid-1950s, and had a long and productive career. He wrote most of the material for the Chet Baker-Art Pepper album "Playboys," recorded with everyone from Davis and Coltrane to Milt Jackson and Gil Evans, worked on charts for Ray Charles, and released several of his own albums. In the 1970s, he helped found the Heath Brothers, which also featured brothers Percy Heath on bass and Albert "Tootie" Heath on drums. Their albums included "Marchin' On" and the Grammy-nominated "Live at the Public Theater." In 1993, he received a Grammy nomination for his own "Little Man, Big Band" album (Heath stood just 5 feet, 3

inches) and played in a jazz concert at the White House, when President Bill Clinton himself borrowed his saxophone for one number.

In 2003, he was named a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts, which noted that "By combining his versatile style of performing and his outstanding writing and arranging abilities, he has set a high standard of accomplishment in the jazz field." Survivors include Tootie Heath; his second wife, Mona; and a child from each of his marriages. His son from his first marriage, James Mtume, became a Grammy-winning musician and songwriter who helped write the Stephanie Mills hit "Never Knew Love Like This Before." Another son, Jeffrey, died in 2010. Percy Heath died in 2005. □



This Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, photo shows a bust of actor James Dean at the Griffith Observatory in the Griffith Park area of Los Angeles.

Associated Press

James Dean revival spurs debate on raising the digital dead

By **ANDREW DALTON and MATT KEMP**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The men bringing James Dean back to life for a forthcoming film are aiming not just to give his digital likeness a role, but a whole new career.

Dean's planned appearance in the Vietnam War movie "Finding Jack," and the possibility of future parts, comes as digital de-aging and duplication of real actors has tipped from cinematic trick into common practice. And it's giving new life to old arguments about the immortality and dignity of the dead. "Our intentions are to create the virtual being of James Dean. That's not only for one movie, but going to be used for many movies and also gaming and virtual reality," said Travis Cloyd, CEO of Worldwide XR, who is leading the design on the Dean project. "Our focus is on building the ultimate James Dean so he can live across any medium."

Legally, they have every right to do it, via the full agreement of the Dean estate and his surviving relatives.

"Our clients want to protect these valuable intellectual property rights and the memories that they have of their loved ones," said Mark Roesler, CEO of CMG Worldwide, the legal and licensing company that has long owned the title to Dean's likeness. "We have to trust them. ... They want to see that their loved one's image and memory continues to live on."

Dean is an obvious candidate for revival with his embodiment-of-Hollywood image and the brevity of his life and career — he died at 24 and made just three films: "East of Eden," "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant."

Roesler and Cloyd have not obtained the rights from Warner Bros. to use footage from those films, but they have a large trove of photos and Dean's dozens of TV roles.

"There are thousands of

images that we do have to work with," Cloyd said. "What we typically do is we take all those images and videos and we run them through machine learning to create that asset." That will be added to the work of a stand-in actor using motion-capture technology as commonly done now with CGI characters, along with the overdubbed voice of another actor.

The announcement of the role last year caused a quick backlash, with responses like that of "Captain America" star Chris Evans on Twitter: "Maybe we can get a computer to paint us a new Picasso. Or write a couple new John Lennon tunes. The complete lack of understanding here is shameful."

"I think there's definitely something cynical and what feels like a little bit distasteful about bringing especially long-dead actors back to life," said Terri White, editor-in-chief of film magazine "Empire." "The reaction to the likes of the James Dean news has actually shown that I think most people don't really want that."

For the people behind the Dean project, the negative reaction is as inevitable as they believe the eventual acceptance will be. Cloyd foresees a Hollywood where even living actors have a "digital twin" that helps in their work.

"This is disruptive technology," Cloyd said. "Some people hear it for the first time and they get shaken by it. But this is where the market is going."

The revival of the dead, often done clumsily, has been happening for much of Hollywood's existence.

Footage of Bela Lugosi, combined with a double holding a cape over his face, was used in 1959's "Plan 9 From Outer Space," released after the horror star's death. Bruce Lee's film "Game of Death," left unfinished before his 1973 death, was completed using doubles and voice overdubs and released five

years later. "The Fast and the Furious" star Paul Walker died in 2013 before shooting was done on "Furious 7." His two younger brothers and others acted as stand-ins so his scenes could be finished.

Even Lennon, and many other dead historical figures, were digitally revived in 1994 in "Forrest Gump." But the technology of recreation and resurrection has taken a major leap forward in quality and prestige, with the extensive de-aging and re-aging used in Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman"; a young Will Smith digitally returning to play opposite the current version in last summer's "Gemini Man"; and Carrie Fisher, whose younger self briefly returned digitally in 2016's "Star Wars: Rogue One" and appeared again after her death, in "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

These instances have elicited scattered skepticism — both of the quality of the technology and the propriety of the revivals — but audiences have largely accepted them.

Guy Williams, visual effects supervisor at filmmaker Peter Jackson's Weta Digital, said the possibilities do offer a moral dilemma.

"The question isn't so much if you use somebody's likeness to bring them back or to create a digital version of them, it's what you do with it and the respect that you show to it," Williams said. "So that, to me, is the more important question." Pablo Helman, the visual effects supervisor behind the de-aging of Robert De Niro and others in "The Irishman," said he considers that moral dilemma in his work.

"The main question that you need to ask yourself is why do it?" Helman said. "You know, just because you can do it doesn't mean you should, you know? That would be one thing that I'm always questioning: Is it in service of the story?"

"At some point there's going to be the James Dean biopic," Cloyd said. □

PH VIP At Paseo Herencia
582-3693

PBP Palm Beach Plaza Mall
586.0074

caribbeancinemas.com
Caribbean Cinemas Aruba

MORE VARIETY IN PROGRAMMING AND SHOWTIMES NOW WITH 14 SCREENS!

JANUARY 16-22

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

BAD BOYS
FOR LIFE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 7:50 | 5:05 | 7:50
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 5:05 | 7:50

PH **VIP** MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:35
SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:35

PBP **CXC**
MON-THU 5:10 | 7:30
FRI 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00
SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00
SUN 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30

PBP **VIP** MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | ANTONIO BANDERAS

DOLITTLE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:50 | 8:15
FRI 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40
SAT 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40
SUN 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15

PBP MON-THU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 10:00
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 10:00
SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

PBP **SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION**
SATURDAY, JAN 18 AT 1:00PM

PBP **SPANISH**
MON-FRI 5:20 | 7:40
SAT-SUN 3:00 | 5:20 | 7:40

KRISTEN STEWART | VINCENT CASSEL

UNDERWATER

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:20
FRI 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35
SAT 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35
SUN 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

PBP FRI-SAT 11:20

PBP **VIP** MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
SAT-SUN 12:55 | 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

DEAN-CHARLES CHAPMAN | GEORGE MACKAY

1917

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

2 GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER

10 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:30
SAT-SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:25 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:15 | 3:50 | 6:25 | 9:00

ROSE BYRNE | TIFFANY HADDISH

Like
A
Boss

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:10
FRI 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15
SAT 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15
SUN 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10

PBP MON-THU & SUN 9:20
FRI-SAT 9:20 | 11:45

DWAYNE JOHNSON | JACK BLACK

JUMANJI
THE NEXT LEVEL

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

WILL SMITH | TOM HOLLAND

SPIES
IN
DISGUISE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 4:40 | 7:00
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00

OPENING JANUARY 23: JUST MERCY, THE TURNING

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Prince wrongful death case dismissed; estate case continues

By AMY FORLITI

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A wrongful death lawsuit filed by Prince's family members has been quietly dismissed in recent months, suggesting family members have reached settlements with defendants including the Minnesota doctor who saw Prince in the weeks before his death and the Illinois hospital that treated him for an opioid overdose seven days before he died. The dismissals largely close one legal chapter in the superstar's legacy, even as efforts drag on to value and dispose of his estate once pegged at around \$200 million.

Prince was 57 when he died of an accidental fentanyl overdose on April 21, 2016, without leaving a will. No one was criminally charged in his death and the source of the counterfeit pills that killed him remains unknown.

Prince's heirs filed a wrongful death lawsuit against a slew of defendants in April 2018, alleging they had the duty and opportunity to diagnose and treat Prince's addiction and prevent his

death, but failed to do so. But as early as last summer, plaintiffs began dismissing defendants.

Claims against Dr. Michael Schulenberg — a doctor who treated Prince in the weeks before his death — were permanently dismissed in November, along with claims against Schulenberg's former employer. Both sides agreed to the dismissals.

Claims against Walgreens, which filled prescriptions for Prince, and Trinity Medical Center, the Illinois hospital where Prince was treated for an opioid overdose a week before he died, were also permanently dismissed in August by agreement.

Attorneys in the case either declined comment or did not return messages to The Associated Press. But Henry Blair, a professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, said the dismissal language — with agreement by defendants and plaintiffs — leaves him "99.99% sure those are settlements."

A medical negligence claim against Howard Kornfeld, a California addic-

tion specialist who was contacted by Prince's associates before he died, was dismissed by a judge in September, but remains alive on appeal. Prince's family says Kornfeld had a duty to advise Prince's associates that he should be immediately admitted for treatment. But the judge found no evidence that Kornfeld ever communicated with Prince or that a doctor-patient relationship was established.

An autopsy found Prince overdosed on fentanyl. Authorities said it was likely Prince didn't know he was taking the synthetic opioid that is 50 times more powerful than heroin.

Authorities said Schulenberg admitted prescribing the opioid oxycodone to Prince's bodyguard in the days before Prince died, knowing the drug would go to Prince. He disputes that allegation, although he paid \$30,000 to settle a federal civil violation alleging the drug was prescribed illegally.

The bodyguard, Kirk Johnson, was deposed during the wrongful death litiga-



In this Feb. 4, 2007 file photo, Prince performs during halftime of the Super Bowl XLI football game in Miami.

Associated Press

tion, but refused to answer nearly all of the questions, according to a transcript. Meanwhile, Prince's siblings are still waiting to learn how much his estate is worth. Court filings several months after Prince's death suggested the estate was worth around \$200 million before taxes. More recent filings suggest the estate and Internal Revenue Service have not yet agreed on its value.

Protracted litigation isn't unusual for big estates, even when there is a will.

The fight between pop superstar Michael Jackson's estate and the IRS over valuing his estate continues in federal tax court, even though he died in 2009.

The lengthy proceedings are stretching some of the siblings' resources. In recent months, one of Prince's sisters, Tyka Nelson, sold a portion of her share of the estate for an undisclosed amount to Primary Wave, a music publisher that also holds interests in the estates of Whitney Houston and other musicians. □

'Out on Television' tracks evolution of LGBTQ portrayals

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

Actor Wilson Cruz says a new documentary on the evolution of LGBTQ depictions on television is a "love letter" to the medium's power.

It's also a testament to how LGBTQ people and their allies harnessed TV to tell the community's stories, said Cruz, who along with actor-comedian Wanda Sykes was an executive producer for "Visible: Out on Television." The five-part documentary will be released Feb. 14 on the new Apple TV Plus streaming service.

"It's through television that we got to tell the entire society and our own culture what our lives are really like. Because of that amount of authenticity, we were

able to move the needle to acceptance," said Cruz, whose TV roles include Dr. Hugh Culber in "Star Trek: Discovery" and Dennis in "13 Reasons Why."

"Visible: Out on Television" includes an interview with Ellen DeGeneres about coming out as gay along with her sitcom character, and Adam Lambert discussing his experience as an "American Idol" contestant. The narrators include Janet Mock, Margaret Cho, Asia Kate Dillon, Neil Patrick Harris and Lena Waithe.

Making the documentary gave him a sense of how far the medium and society has come, from invisibility to depictions across a wide number of TV programs, Cruz told a TV critics meeting Sunday. The next step



Wilson Cruz speaks at the "Visible: Out on Television" panel during the Apple+ TCA 2020 Winter Press Tour at the Langham Huntington, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

toward progress is getting additional LGBTQ creators behind the camera as writers, directors and producers, he said.

He also called for less violence toward LGBTQ char-

acters and more fully dimensional transgender characters that add to what's portrayed on FX's "Pose," which stars Emmy-winner Billy Porter.

Cruz was asked why depic-

tions of LGBTQ people of color lagged.

"I don't know why it took so long, but I'm sure it had something to do with racism," he said, dryly. "It's a hunch."

Before openly LGBTQ characters came to TV, Sykes said, she tried to guess at possibilities.

"Pretty sure Roz is gay," she said of a character on the 1986-92 sitcom "Night Court." She reeled off a few other hunches, including Mary Ann from the 1960s sitcom "Gilligan's Island" and housekeeper Alice on "The Brady Bunch."

"Sam who?" Sykes said skeptically, a reference to Alice's long-time boyfriend and eventual husband on the sitcom that debuted in 1969. □

Is winter miserable for wildlife?

By **Bridget B. Baker**
Associated Press

While the weather outside may indeed get frightful this winter, a parka, knit hat, wool socks, insulated boots and maybe a roaring fire make things bearable for people who live in cold climates. But what about all the wildlife out there? Won't they be freezing?

Anyone who's walked their dog when temperatures are frigid knows that canines will shiver and favor a cold paw – which partly explains the boom in the pet clothing industry. But chipmunks and cardinals don't get fashionable coats or booties.

In fact, wildlife can succumb to frostbite and hypothermia, just like people and pets. In the northern United States, the unfurred tails of opossums are a common casualty of cold exposure. Every so often an unusual cold snap in Florida results in iguanas falling from trees and manatees dying from cold stress.

Avoiding the cold is important for preserving life or limb (or, in the opossum's case, tail) and the opportunity to reproduce. These biological imperatives mean that wildlife must be able to feel cold, in order to try to avoid the damaging effects of its extremes. Animal species have their own equivalent to what human beings experience as that unpleasant biting mixed with pins-and-needles sensation that urges us to warm up soon or suffer the consequences. In fact, the nervous system mechanisms for sensing a range of temperatures are pretty much the same among all vertebrates. One winter challenge for warm-blooded animals, or endotherms, as they're scientifically known, is to maintain their internal body temperature in cold conditions. Interestingly though, temperature-sensing thresholds can vary depending on physiology. For instance, a cold-blooded – that is, ectothermic – frog will sense cold starting at a lower temperature



Ice crystals cover glass in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019. Falling temperatures replaced the weekend's falling snow Monday as bitter cold and gusty winds swept across the eastern United States.
Associated Press

compared to a mouse. Recent research shows that hibernating mammals, like the thirteen-lined ground squirrel, don't sense the cold until lower temperatures than endotherms that don't hibernate.

So animals know when it's cold, just at varying temperatures. When the mer-

Many cold-climate endotherms exhibit torpor: a state of decreased activity. They look like they are sleeping. Because animals capable of torpor alternate between internally regulating their body temperature and allowing the environment to influence it, scientists consider them

species, even below the 32 degrees Fahrenheit freezing point – that is not compatible with many physiologic functions. The result is a lower metabolic rate, and thus lower energy and food demand. Hibernation is a prolonged version of torpor.

Torpor has energy conser-



In this June 13, 2017, file photo, the parents of this 7-week old red wolf pup keep an eye on their offspring at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, N.C.

Associated Press

cury plummets, are wildlife suffering or just going with the icy flow?

One solution: Slow down and check out

“heterotherms.” During harsh conditions, this flexibility offers the advantage of a lower body temperature – remarkably in some

vation benefits for smaller-bodied wildlife in particular – think bats, songbirds and rodents. They naturally lose heat faster because the

surface area of their body is large compared to their overall size. To maintain their body temperature within normal range, they must expend more energy compared to a larger-bodied animal. This is especially true for birds who maintain higher average body temperatures compared to mammals.

Unfortunately, torpor is not a perfect solution to surviving frigid conditions since it comes with trade-offs, such as a higher risk of becoming another animal's lunch.

Adaptations that help

Unsurprisingly, animals have evolved other adaptations for weathering the winter months.

Wildlife species at northern latitudes tend to be larger-bodied with smaller appendages than their close relatives closer to the tropics. Many animals have evolved behaviors to help them beat the cold: herding, denning, burrowing and roosting in cavities are all good defenses. And some animals experience physiological changes as winter approaches, building fat reserves, growing thicker fur, and trapping an insulating layer of air against the skin beneath the fur or feathers.

Nature has devised other neat tricks to help various animals deal with conditions that people, for instance, would be unable to endure. Have you ever wondered how geese can appear to stand comfortably on ice or squirrels in snow in their bare feet? The secret is the close proximity of the arteries and veins in their extremities that creates a gradient of warming and cooling. As blood from the heart travels to the toes, the warmth from the artery transfers to the vein carrying cold blood from the toes back to the heart. This countercurrent heat exchange allows the core of the body to remain warm while limiting heat loss when the extremities are cold, but not so cold that tissue damage occurs. □